

THE GATEWAY

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North America's smallest dinosaur identified at U of A

JUSTIN GORUK
Duty News Editor

It was an adventure that began back in 1982, and now 27 years later, University of Alberta paleontology and biological sciences professor Philip Currie is now able to say with certainty that he and his colleague have identified the smallest dinosaur known to have roamed North America.

The discovery and identification of the carnivorous *Hesperonychus elizabethae*—a species so small it would easily fit in the palm of one's hand—will be published in *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* this week.

Originally thought to be a bone fragment from a lizard, the piece was found by a University of Calgary student who was hired by the U of A to work in Alberta's Dinosaur Provincial Park.

"At that time, she was looking mostly for smaller animals, and the small fossils she found she thought probably belonged to a lizard," Currie explained.

"It came up here, and everybody thought it was not quite right for a lizard, but at the same time, nobody really knew what it was. It just sat here."

There was no real thought given to its origin until the late 1990s when, according to Currie, a feathered skeleton named *Microaptor* was uncovered in China. A student of his at the time was the one who made the connection between the two skeletons.



"[He] was going through our collections one day and realized that [the bone] is almost identical to the one in China in terms of hip structure. So he flagged it and we had it prepared and yes, it was in fact, answering many questions," Currie recalled.

Despite missing a complete skeleton, the ability to compare their fragment to the specimen in China allowed for a concise analysis of each structure.

Alberta has provided paleontologists with more than enough skeletons over the years, but as Currie explains, many of those smaller specimens remain incomplete.

However, simply examining the larger and whole skeletons significantly narrows the field of study when it comes to fully understanding life during the period when dinosaurs wandered Alberta.

"Normally we aren't worried about it too much, we've just gone after the good skeletons and that's that. But it only gives you one side of the story. Big skeletons preserve a lot more easily than small things because you don't have things eating them—you don't have slivers that are ripping the pieces apart," Currie explained.

For those researchers still ingrained in the area of Dinosaur Park, even after over a century of study, Currie believes that discoveries like the *Hesperonychus elizabethae* prove that there is still a lot to be learned.

"We want to know what's going on with the other side of the ecosystem; all the small animals and that includes not just dinosaurs, but all the things living with the dinosaurs. We wouldn't even know about them if we just went after the big skeletons," he said.

PLEASE SEE DINO • PAGE 3



Hesperonychus elizabethae as it measures up against fellow prehistoric species

DINO-FACTS

- The name *Hesperonychus* comes from *hesperus*, the Latin word for west and *onychus*, the Greek word for claw

- The species name *elizabethae* was used in honour of the late Dr Elizabeth Ichniols, the woman who originally discovered the fragment

- The dinosaur is estimated to have weighed approximately 1900 grams or half the weight of a domestic cat

"I'm willing to bet that in a couple years, we're going to have more small dinosaur species than big dinosaurs species."

PHILIP CURRIE
U OF A PALEONTOLOGIST

Bruce Peel Special Collections pays tribute to prized novels, authors of Hogarth Press

ALEXANDRIA ELDRIDGE
News Writer

For many students who study the novels of Virginia Woolf, to see and touch books that were produced by her hand is an engaging experience. This experience is now a reality to those at the University of Alberta thanks to a new exhibit of these books in the Bruce Peel Special Collections Library.

The Hogarth Press was a small printing business, founded by Virginia and Leonard Woolf in 1917, that was operated out of their home. Many of the books they published can now be viewed in the lower level of Rutherford South at Woolfhead Publishing: *The Highlights and New Lights of the Hogarth Press*. The curator of the exhibit is Dr Elizabeth Willson Gordon, a sessional instructor in the Department of English and Film Studies at the U of A.

The Hogarth Press was important in establishing the careers of many famous writers and spreading their influential ideas, including TS Eliot, EM Forester, and of course, Virginia

Woolf herself. The Woolfs also published their own English translations of works by Sigmund Freud and Leo Tolstoy.

"[Virginia and Leonard Woolf] were also interested in giving a venue for new and lesser-known writers, to help them get into print," Gordon said.

"Many are intrigued by the beautiful covers and all the attention that goes into the illustrations and the cover design."

DR ELIZABETH WILSON GORDON
SESSIONAL INSTRUCTOR

The Press also published the work of visual artists, such as Roger Fry, Duncan Grant, and Vanessa Bell—who designed many of the books' covers and dust jackets.

According to Gordon, there is an

aesthetic beauty to the books published by the Hogarth Press.

"Many are intrigued by the beautiful covers and all of the attention that goes into the illustrations and the cover design," Gordon explained.

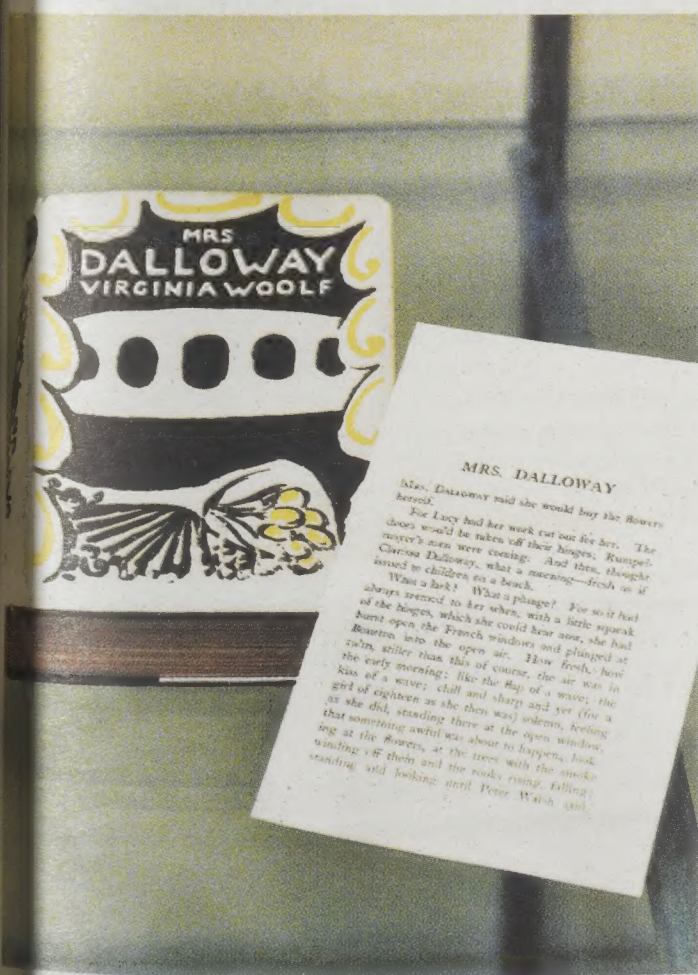
The Hogarth Press published 488 titles between 1917–1941. The Woolfs weren't concerned with profiting from their enterprise, but instead published works that they found interesting. Various choices included anti-war books, pamphlets on women's rights, and creative works such as poetry.

"They let themselves publish quite eclectically," Gordon added.

"They published a book on diet and high blood-pressure. There's more to the Press than one might assume."

The goal of the exhibit is to highlight some of the lesser-known works published by the Hogarth Press. The process of choosing which works to include began in the summer of 2008, but the actual acquisition of many of those works included have been taking place at the U of A since the 1970s.

PLEASE SEE HOGARTH • PAGE 2



HAILEY SIRACKY

A COLLECTION OF ONE'S OWN Fans of Virginia Woolf will be able to access editions of her work that she produced by hand through the Hogarth Press.

Inside

News	1-6
Opinion	7-11
Sports	12-16
A&E	17-21
Comics	22
Classifieds	23



Road to the Motor City

Get your brackets ready—Gateway Sports tells you who'll be in Detroit for the finals of NCAA March Madness

SPORTS, PAGE 12-13



Zombie Holocaust

Pontypool has been overrun by the undead and anyone who's overly verbose is just making it worse

A&E, PAGE 17

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colophon

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sister paper, and we love her dearly, though "not in that
way." The Gateway's games of choice are Oregon Trail
and Tony Hawk's Pro Skater 2.

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Vincent, Lauren Stieglitz, Hailey Siracky, Steffi RosskopfExhibit able
to appeal to
all types of
students

HOGARTH • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The University's collection of
Hogarth Press books is quite exten-
sive, and includes well-known titles
such as Virginia Woolf's *To The
Lighthouse*, *A Room of One's Own*,
and *Orlando: A Biography*."It's a substantial collection, one
of the best in the country," Gordon
stated.Many students throughout the years
have visited Special Collections to see
this array of books. Gordon recalled
her experience when she visited the
library as an undergraduate, and
looked at some Hogarth Press books
regularly held by the U of A."My professor told us that Virginia
Woolf herself not only printed this,
but she would have tied the binding
[...] and that just sent shivers down
my spine."With such a strong memory of
her own experience with the collec-
tion, Gordon hopes that students will
express a similar interest to come and
visit the exhibition this spring."There's a lot of appeal for different
kinds of people to come and see this
[...] There's that sense of history that
you get with the actual object," she
explained.The exhibit runs until April 2009
at the Bruce Peel Special Collections
Library in Rutherford South, and
admission is free.

“I got shamed. I had to stick up for myself.”

COUNCIL
FORUM

Written by Sean Steels

Students' Council meets every second
Tuesday in the Council Chambers in
University Hall at 6pm. Council meet-
ings are open to all students. The next
meeting will be held on Tuesday, 24
March, where free food will be provided
for all attendees.On Tuesday night Council adopted
a do-it-yourself sandwich station.
There's nothing like the satisfaction of
constructing your own culinary mas-
terpiece. The one downside to the
evening was the notable absence of
those delectable cookies, which were
replaced by a merely okay assortment
of dessert squares. Don't let that deter
you though—if you're at all interested
in student politics, swing by, fill your
belly, and get your democracy on.

ALL THE PIECES MATTER

In presentation to Council on Tuesday
night, SU Vice President (Operations
and Finance) Steven Dollansky outlined
the financial standing of the Students'
Union with a series of charts.Dollansky began his broad and largely
optimistic overview of SU finances with
a look at undergraduate enrollment,
which went up last year. But he was
clear that, in the future, enrollment is
likely to level out, which will limit any
increases in fee collection because ofinflation. Student fees currently provide
20.3 per cent of the SU's total revenue
and are likely to increase slightly to 20.5
per cent in 2009/10 because of the
potential loss of Dewey's billiard space
in the coming year.According to Dollansky, the remain-
der of businesses under the Operations
and Finances portfolio experienced
mixed profitability. SUBmart, SUBprint,
RATT, and L'Express had profitable
streams of revenue, while Dewey's and
SUBtitles recorded negative profit num-
bers. The Power Plant building has made
a comeback in over the last three years
due to a re-evaluated and revamped
Dewey's, but the potential loss of its bil-
liard space next year threatens to push it
back into the red.Dollansky also outlined the SU's future
targets, which included renovations to
RATT's washrooms, bar, sound system
and seating; new carpet in the Myer
Horowitz Theatre; and new comput-
ers for the postal outlet. Green invest-
ments were not left out as \$15 000
will go towards the SUB composting
program and \$34 000 towards obtain-
ing environmentally-friendly paper for
coursepack production.Also, in the new academic year the
SU will invest \$20 000 to increase and
equalize wages among service staff
and provide conflict and staff manage-
ment training for incoming executives.Dollansky concluded that, on the
whole, the SU had a profitable year and
he expects those profits to continue to
rise.**STEVEN DOLLANSKY**
Vice President (Operations and Finance)
—When asked by President Morin if he
thought that advocacy was a service

QUESTION PERIOD

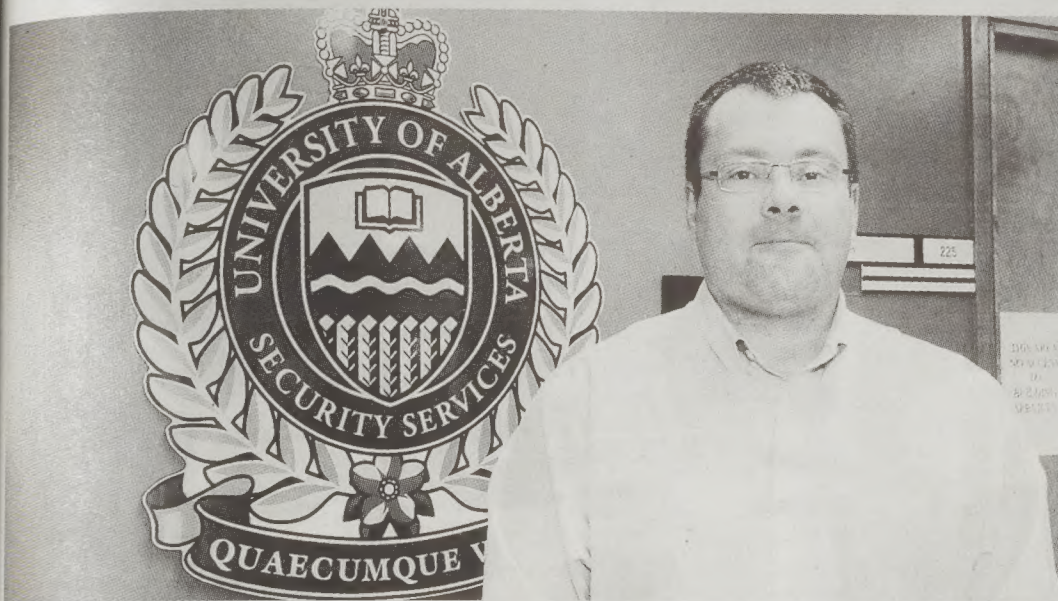
President Janelle Morin was questioned
about how meetings between her-
self, Vice President (External) Beverly
Eastham, and provincial MLAs went
at the Council of Alberta University
Students (CAUS) lobby conference.
Morin responded that she consid-
ered the meeting a success. Although
several issues concerning student
education were discussed, Morin
detailed that the priority of the meeting
had been ensuring provincial tuition
caps.Eastham added that over the three
days, 51 meetings with MLAs were
conducted and that by the end of their
lobbying efforts, several MLAs had
expressed their commitment to ensure
tuition caps.Vice President (Student Life) Kirsten
Flath updated Council on the U of A's
bid for the 2015 Summer Universiade
games. She explained that the bid was
going well and that Edmonton is now
a frontrunner for the bid with their
remaining contender being Gwanju,
Korea.Dollansky jumped in to emphasize
the financial significance of the bid.
The last time the University received
the Universiade in 1983—then called
the World University Games—, the
Butterdome and East Campus Village
were constructed. If the U of A suc-
ceeds in winning the bid, it will be eli-
gible for approximately \$200 million in
funding from the provincial and federal
government.

STREETERS

Compiled and photographed by
Sean Steels and Pete Yee**Darren Mach**
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Agriculture II**Dawn Scott**
Arts Alumnus**Samantha Giese**
Phys Ed IAs you may be aware, the Pope kicked off his trip to Africa by advising that condoms were not the
answer to the continent's issues with HIV. His words have since received international backlash.
What advice have you given lately that got you into trouble?A single friend of mine and I were out
drinking, talking with two really hot girls.
I convinced him to go talk to them even
though I knew they had boyfriends. That
turned out bad for him. It didn't end in
fisticuffs, but it could have. I knew they
had boyfriends, but that's just [a] minor
detail.I don't give bad advice. I only give good
advice.I told a friend that they could date mul-
tiple people at once. [Did they take it?]
Yes, and they got in trouble.I told a friend to drink more. [Did
they follow your advice?] Yeah, it was
embarrassing.8101-103 st. **whyte ave****2009 PARTY
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CSS student auxiliary program replaced by University Watch



PETEYEE

THEY WALK AMONG US Sergeant Nelson Presley explains the upcoming changes CSS's Student Auxiliary Program.

JENNIFER HUYGEN
Senior News Editor

As of the end of April, Campus Security Services (CSS) will be undergoing major organizational changes to their Student Auxiliary Program, replacing it with a non-uniformed, non-intervention program called University Watch (U-Watch).

Like the auxiliary program currently in place, U-Watch members will be postsecondary students or recent graduates, tasked with acting as the "eyes and ears" for CSS peace officers on campus. They will also be required to provide special duty security for special events and functions at the U of A.

However, U-Watch members will not be permitted to intervene or exercise the powers of arrest that are currently held by those in the auxiliary program.

"As auxiliary officers they were trained to pretty high standards, they were given uniforms, they were given authority and the ability to arrest people when required," said Sergeant Nelson Presley, training and support officer with CSS.

"We're still hiring students on a part-time basis, but the training will be different. They will not be given any control tactics training, because it will be a non-intervention type of position."

According to Nelson, the basic duties will remain the same between the two programs, but the response reaction will differ.

"Our auxiliary officers, for example,

were required to patrol HUB Mall and East Campus on a nightly basis. That duty will still be there, it's just that rather than having the ability to intervene in a situation, they will be required to call a peace officer in to deal with that situation instead," Nelson said, noting that a primary concern in the changeover was the safety of the student out on patrol.

"[University Watch] will allow people who don't want to be involved in police work but still want to be part of the community to become involved in the program."

SERGEANT NELSON PRESLEY
CSS OFFICER

In place of uniforms, students will instead be identified by shirts and jackets. Nelson noted that certain qualifications will also be re-evaluated.

"There's no physical qualifications like there is with the auxiliary programs, so it allows students who perhaps have some physical difficulties to become part of the program," he said.

"It will allow people who don't want to be involved in police work but still want to be part of the community to become involved in the program. So I think it'll actually affect

us in a more positive aspect."

The changes come in response to legislative provisions recently channelled through the Alberta Legislature in the form of the Security Services and Investigators Act, which received Royal Assent in December 2008.

"We're not quite sure yet what the requirements of the new act are going to be other than everyone needs to be licensed, everyone needs to be trained to a specific standard," Presley said.

CSS has also had to make several changes in response to directives from the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA)—the credentialing authority to which CSS belongs.

"According to CALEA, there's a couple of standards that apply to our auxiliary program that require us to change the parameters of the program," Presley added.

He noted that CSS is undergoing significant organizational changes, including moving from a five-squad to a four-squad rotation in order to have a greater presence on the streets during shifts and maintain a low response time when notified as to an emergency by U-Watch members.

Nelson explained that CSS began hiring members for U-Watch back in January, and hopes to wrap up recruitment for next year's team by the end of the semester.

"Really what it comes down to is that as of the end of April, we will hire our first classes of University Watch members, and we'll start training at that point."

Future field to focus on smaller dinosaurs

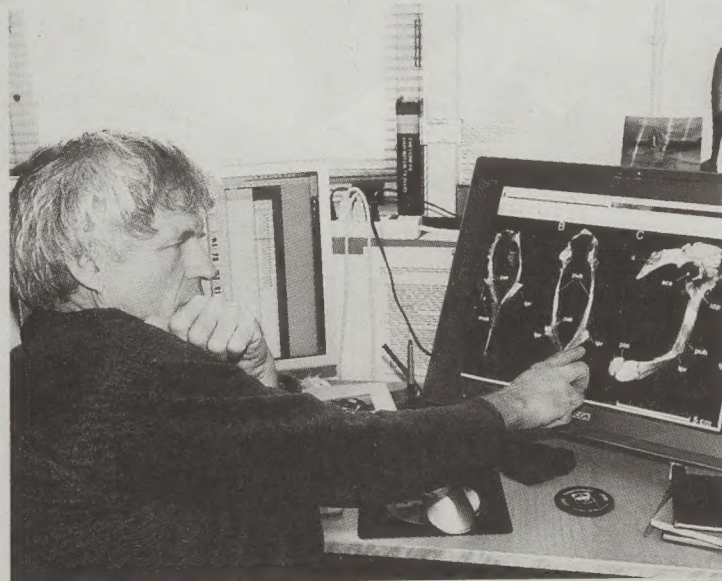
DINO • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Research geared towards these smaller specimens has Currie excited about the potential of new discoveries which could further shed light on Alberta's past.

"It's pretty cool that if you like dinosaurs, you don't have to work on the big ones all the time. You can work on things that'll fit in the palm of your hand," he noted.

For Currie, *Hesperonychus elizabethae* is the first of many dinosaur skeletons that will eventually reach the surface.

"I think it's an area that's going to see a lot more research in the future, simply because as time goes on, we're discovering more and more of these small dinosaurs. I'm willing to bet that in a couple years, we're going to have more small dinosaur species than big dinosaurs species."



PETEYEE

THE HIP BONES' CONNECTED TO THE ... Dr Phil Currie details a virtual reconstruction of North America's smallest dinosaur that fits in the palm of one's hand.

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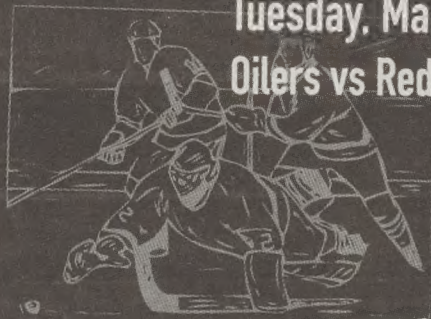
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NEWS BRIEF

U OF A WORKS WITH THE CITY OF EDMONTON TO CREATE URBAN TRAFFIC SAFETY RESEARCH CHAIR

The City of Edmonton has partnered with the University of Alberta in an effort to make Edmonton's streets safer through the establishment and funding of an Urban Traffic Safety Research Chair.

The position will be administered by the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering at the U of A and received a \$1.5 million boost from the City earlier this week during the first International Conference on Urban Traffic Safety which took place in Edmonton. The city's financial commitment to the initiative comes through automated photo enforcement fines generated from red-light cameras located throughout Edmonton.

"We all know that traffic safety stems from education, modelling, and best practice and research," said Mayor Stephen Mandel, who was on hand at the Sutton Place Hotel Monday night for the official announcement.

"The Traffic Safety Research Chair will work hard to bring Edmonton-

based traffic safety solutions in the hopes to make our streets safer for everyone."

The Research Chair will be tasked with focusing on municipal traffic patterns, including an analysis of road layouts, placement of traffic lights and signage, and simulations of traffic volumes and road conditions, in order to improve safe driving on Edmonton's busy streets.

"[The Research Chair] will bring the best thinking in traffic safety, planning, and design in the world today to Edmonton and Alberta," explained U of A President Indira Samarasekera.

"We will also be able to attract many more students to the field of transportation engineering and provide a steady supply of highly trained personnel for the city of Edmonton."

While the position has yet to be filled, the new chair will be expected to provide research expertise to the City while educating undergraduate, graduate, and doctoral students in the field of urban traffic safety.

"It's vital that cities have the research, the engineering tools, and personnel they need to prevent collisions and promote safety on streets and highways," Samarasekera said.

—Jennifer Huygen, Senior News Editor



PETE YEE

CHECKING UP ON SAFETY A contribution from the City of Edmonton, presented by Mayor Mandel on Monday night, will work towards a new program ensuring safety and efficiency on Edmonton's increasingly busy roadways.

Build your own Picasso masterpiece with a flick of a light switch.

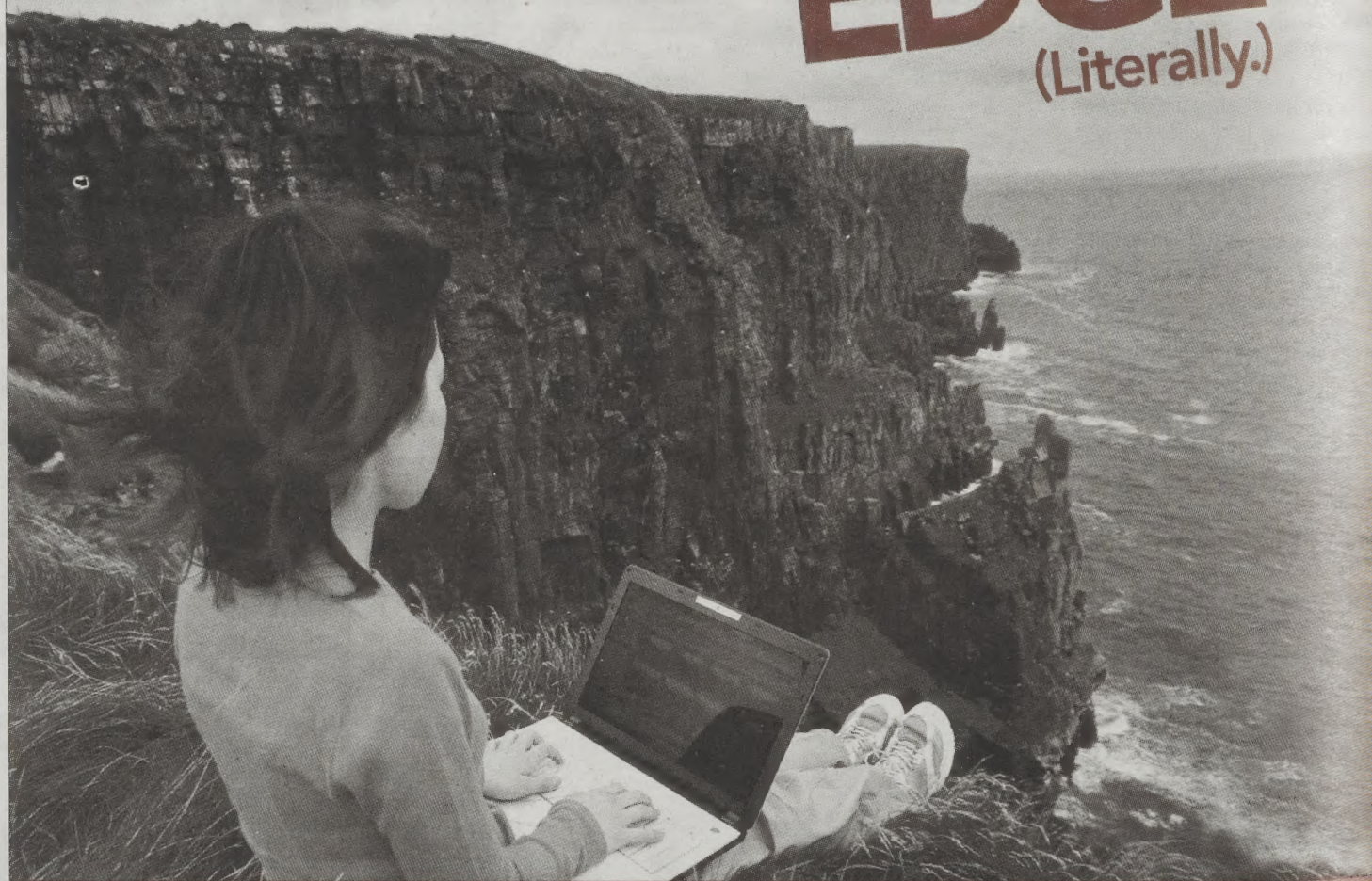
Meetings every Friday at 5PM in SUB 3-04. See you there.

GATEWAY PHOTO
Painting the night since 1910.



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Discovery of paired banners holds historical significance

St George's Banner was recently discovered after disappearing from the University campus without a trace 20 years ago

DEMMI CONNOLLY
News Writer

It was over 20 years ago when St George's Banner, a University of Alberta icon, went missing; but just a few months ago, the discovery of what was believed to be that very banner has led to an even bigger mystery.

With the realization that there are in fact, two banners, the riddle now surrounds the whereabouts of each banner, as well as how and why the two were believed to be switched.

St George's Banner was used as an insignia of office during the time it prevailed on campus from 1911 until it was lost in the early 1980s. St George was regarded by many as a hero for his mythical slaying of a dragon, and in commemoration, nine banners displaying his likeness were given to nine different universities by Canada's then-Governor General, the fourth Earl Grey.

Beneath the picture of St George is inscribed "Where its design might stimulate the students in the emulation of St George and to devote their lives in the redressing of human wants."

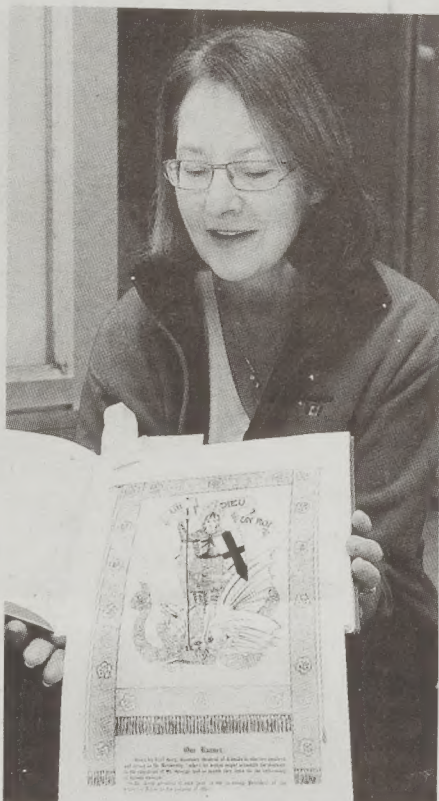
In early February, historian Ellen Schoeck was called to the U of A to help decipher the discovery of what was thought to be the one missing St George's banner, found by a few archivists at the U of A Book and Record Depository. Upon seeing the banner, however, Schoeck realized that the discovery had only unlocked more questions.

The banner that was found—which Schoeck has nicknamed Miss Silver—was different from the banner documented in recent U of A yearbooks, which has been nicknamed Mr Green due to its emerald colour. Upon further investigation and digging in older versions of the yearbooks, Schoeck realized that Miss Silver was the banner used up until the 1924–25 academic year.

"When I saw [Miss Silver] in the flesh, so to speak, in colour, the armour was silver and I thought [...] something is wrong," she explained.

"[Mr Green] is the one we thought we were really searching for, we thought it was green, but then seeing this in colour I thought, 'I remember leaving the archives and thinking something's wrong here' [...] there's two banners," she added.

This revelation has led to questions surrounding whether or not Mr Green was in fact



LAUREN STIEGLITZ

RAISING THE BANNER Ellen Schoeck reveals the long-lost Miss Silver edition of St George's banner.

the original banner received by the U of A or if the appearance of Miss Silver changes what is thought to be the history surrounding its disappearance.

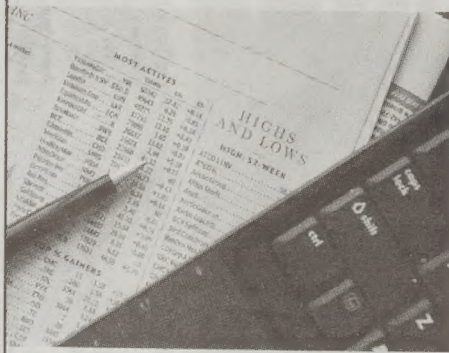
Historians remain puzzled by how the U of A ended up with two St George's banners, and the present whereabouts of Mr Green.

Following the finding of Miss Silver back in February, Schoeck has been on the hunt for Mr Green. In searching through archives, Schoeck discovered an article in an early edition of the Gateway, stating that Mr Green was discovered in a garbage heap outside of SUB.

She's since searched the Students' Union Building and the Faculty of Arts property—both suspected locations linked back to Mr Green's disappearance in the 1980s—but has yet to unearth any leads.

However, after searching through nooks and crannies of campus, Schoeck has one more idea for where Mr Green might be.

"I have one other place I'm going to look; it's going to be my secret 'till I get there. I'm talking to a person—someone who's been on campus for 40 years—[and they're going to] take me into some other little corners of campus. And you never know, it could be at someone's house," she said.



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PETE YEE

OUT IN THE COLD Six business students from the U of A and Grant MacEwan are spending five days outdoors to raise money and awareness for Edmonton's Youth Emergency Shelter.

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Canadian-US scientists forecast stem cell research collaboration

SARAH KHALIL
The Manitoban

WINNIPEG (CUP)—US President Barack Obama lifted the ban on federal funding for stem cell research on 9 March, leading Canadian researchers to predict more collaboration on research endeavours between the two countries.

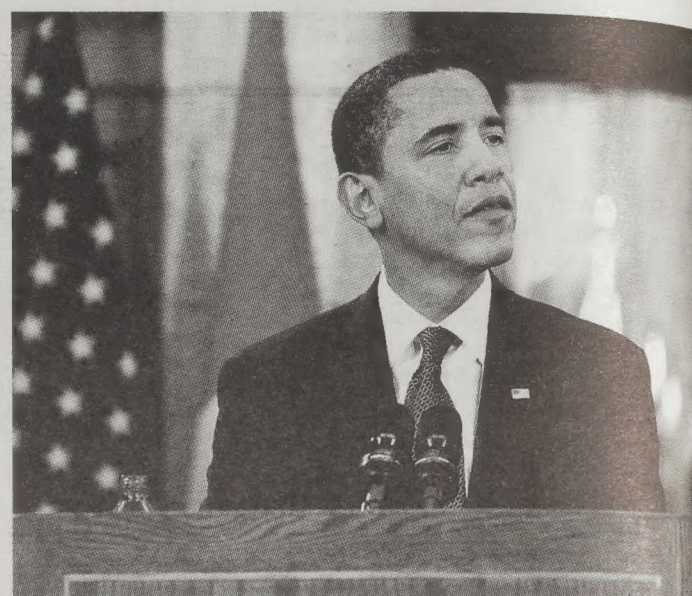
As Canada's federal funding has not been restricted, its embryonic stem cell research status is considered to have a slight edge over that in the US.

Stem cells are highly prized for research because they can grow into any tissue of the human body and have the potential to cure many diseases through tissue replacement. The cells, however, are controversial because harvesting them usually requires the destruction of a human embryo, and development of the technology used in the process could potentially lead to advances in human cloning.

As a result of legislation created by the Bush administration on 9 August, 2001, funding for stem cell research in the US has been restricted to programs experimenting on established stem cell lines. Stem cells already obtained for research can be multiplied for experimentation, but obtaining new cells from an embryo would bar researchers from funding.

Jesse Reynolds, project director on biotechnology accountability at the US Centre for Genetics and Society, supports dismantling the Bush administration's restrictions, but still thinks federal oversights are important when developing embryonic stem cell research.

"We support embryonic stem cell research, but we are concerned that a broader range of human genetics and reproductive biotechnology possess a significant risk for society if left without oversight, as they are now," Reynolds said.



MEAGHAN WALTON/THE FULCRUM

YES WE DID The Obama administration has lifted a ban on stem cell research.

"Embryonic stem cell research has one component of that broader set of human biotechnologies, and up until now, has been hardly regulated in the US, so we support Obama's action not only because it removes the Bush restriction, but also because [Obama has] called for federal oversight."

However, researchers will still have limitations. Similar to Canada, researchers won't be able to use an egg embryo that was specifically fertilized for the use of embryonic stem cell research.

"When you have a number of eggs from the female and fertilize it with a number of sperms, all you do is pick one fertilized egg and implant [it] into the female for in vitro fertilization. What is remaining [...] can be used for research," explained Dr Patrick Choy, Associate Dean of Research at the University of Manitoba's Faculty of Medicine.

Like in Canada, the new US policy will apply only to these accidentally produced stem cells, usable only with the informed consent of the woman.

At the U of M, the Faculty of Medicine is developing a research program called regenerative medicine, which uses stem cells to grow parts of organs. Choy said it is one of the only a few programs dedicated entirely to regenerative medical research.

"If part of one's liver would die, then the liver would regenerate, and hopefully, if the pancreas of a patient is not working in the case of a patient that is not secreting insulin [which would cause] diabetes, we can use stem cells to regenerate the pancreas so that insulin would come out and the diabetes would be done," he said.

Choy regards regenerative medicine as a "third way" to cure diseases that could eventually treat such things as Parkinson's disease, spinal cord damage, and paraplegia.

Choy predicted that because of Obama's lifting of the ban, it will be possible to witness the cure of diseases using stem cells and stem cell research in five years' time.

Concordia University switches health plan providers after accusations of misdealings

JACOB SEREBRIN
The Concordian

MONTREAL (CUP)—The Concordia Student Union has officially changed their student health plan provider amid allegations from the former provider that the CSU had acted in bad faith.

While the change has been in the works since December, it only became public in February when Lev Bukhman, the owner of Alliance pour la Santé Étudiante au Québec (ASEQ), the CSU's previous health plan broker, sent a public letter to CSU President Keyana Kashfi, university administration, and campus media, alleging that the CSU had acted in bad faith. Details of the accusation have yet to be released.

In reaction to the Bukham's letter, the CSU claims Bukhman's company mismanaged the plan and cost students hundreds of thousands of dollars.

CSU council voted to hire Morneau Sobeco with the National Student Health Alliance to act as insurance brokers at a Council meeting Thursday.

Details of the company shift were presented to Council in camera on Thursday by Joel Duff, an organizer for the Ontario branch of the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS), a lobby group in which the CSU is a member.

The National Student Health Network is managed by the CFS-Services, and

serves as a buying consortium of student associations for negotiating health and dental insurance plans. CFS-Services provides services to CFS members, but operates under separate management from the CFS itself.

Duff, who was paid \$1 by the CSU for his report on the mismanagement, says that the National Student Health Alliance's affiliation with the CFS didn't present a conflict of interest.

"I'm not here representing the Canadian Federation of Students or the National Student Health Network," he said. "I'm here as a consultant for the Concordia Student Union."

Council chair Brent Farrington, who is also national deputy chairperson for the CFS, said that Duff's presentation overruled ASEQ and the CSU's accusations, but made no recommendations.

"He didn't make any recommendations for where to go, or outline any future plan for the CSU—he merely outlined the historical context," Farrington said.

In December, the CSU asked Morneau Sobeco to conduct a market tender—a process where insurance companies are invited to bid on the right to provide a new insurance plan.

The results of this process were also presented to Council on Thursday by Keith Morrallee and Gerry

Matlashewski, a partner and a principal at Morneau Sobeco, respectively.

Morneau Sobeco received bids from five insurance companies. However, they did not receive a quote from the current insurance company Sun Life Financial, which was brokered through ASEQ.

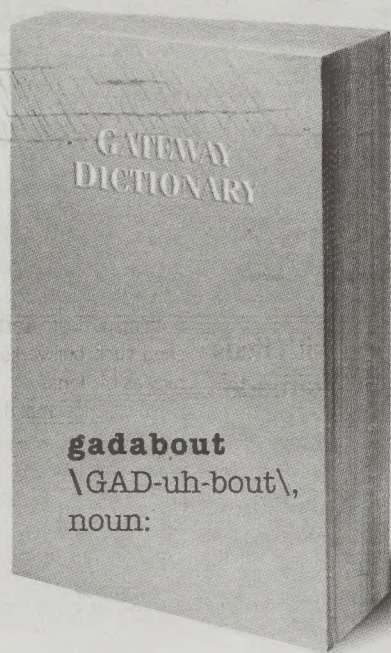
The 15 000 Concordia students who are part of the health and dental plan currently pay \$195 per year. According to Morrallee and Matlashewski, after surcharges paid to the CSU and ASEQ, \$127.80 is paid to Sun Life in premiums, as well as a fee of 14.05 per cent to the company on every claim.

They recommended the switch to Green Shield, who will match the current plan at a cost of \$117.74 in premiums, with an 8.2 per cent fee.

Morrallee and Matlashewski also suggested that the CSU switch to a "refund" or retention accounting model. Under this system, if the amount of the insurance claims made by Concordia students is less than the premiums they paid into the plan, this "surplus" would go back to the CSU.

The CSU would be responsible if students claim more than the premiums cover.

The current plan operates under a "fully insured" model, which means that the CSU pays a set amount each year.



gadabout
\GAD-uh-bout\
noun:

1. Someone who roams about in search of amusement or social activity.

See also: Gateway news writer

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GATEWAY NEWS:
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Goodyear shouldn't waffle on evolution

FOR AT LEAST THE PAST EIGHT YEARS, THE scientific community has been under fire from the religious right, who, with support from the conservative Bush regime, have used a strength-in-numbers approach to advocate their anti-evolutionary beliefs. With this year's re-branding of Western society as a more rational and progressive civilization under Barack Obama, however, those same fundamentalists are suddenly the minority, and the creationism debate seems to quickly be losing momentum.

But it's not over yet—while some may have jumped ship to back Darwin's scientific theory, the pull towards the left has many conservatives stuck on the fence with a non-committal opinion between logic and scripture, including Canada's own science minister Gary Goodyear. In an interview with the *Globe and Mail* earlier this week, Goodyear refused to answer a question about his belief in evolution, stating "I am a Christian, and I don't think anybody asking a question about my religion is appropriate."

On the surface, it's a smart move, politically speaking. Goodyear's clearly looking out for his public image by avoiding the controversial topics—something any politician learns on day one of the campaign trail. But what Goodyear doesn't seem to understand is that, unlike a hypothetical situation where the minister of finance dodges a question on the abortion debate, the theory of evolution is integral to his position in the Cabinet, and could potentially affect critical decisions over how Canada's scientific community is governed.

Unsurprisingly, several respondents immediately took up arms against the minister, torches and pitchforks in hand. It's important to note that while Goodyear hasn't explicitly stated that he's a creationist, the fact remains that he's simply unwilling to take a public stance on the issue that defines his position—the one topic for which he absolutely should be standing in science's corner.

In an attempt to salvage his blunder, the minister gave a follow-up interview on CTV's *Power-Play*, mashing together a ham-fisted defence for evolution, stating, "We are evolving, every year [...] whether it's to, as a chiropractor, walking on cement versus anything else, whether it's running shoes or high heels, of course, we are evolving to our environment." In other words, the man either doesn't understand how evolution actually works, or he thinks that offering a layman's misperception of it will be enough to appease the masses.

I respect that Goodyear is doing everything that he can to sound intelligent and reasonable to the left without losing the Conservative supporters in a riding he's held since 2004, but it's a move that's becoming more indicative of the fact that Prime Minister Harper hasn't been fully considering the credentials of his MPs before slapping a ministerial title on their resumé—the term "Cabinet shuffle" seems more common than an uptight separatist in Parliament these days.

What Goodyear fails to realize is that while he's perfectly entitled to whatever personal beliefs he holds dear, whether he'll admit it or not. When such beliefs overlap and contrast with those he's assigned to represent, there's a legitimate risk that important decisions could be clouded with personal bias.

There's no hard and fast way to prove that because Goodyear refuses to endorse evolution that Canadian scientific research will grind to a halt, but the implications speak loudly enough to raise questions of conflicts of interest. Even if Goodyear makes every effort to offer continued funding to researchers, if the money is going towards causes he may not personally support, he's simply allowing himself to be governed by the will of the masses—an equally dangerous idea for someone who's supposed to be a leader in the community.

There's no sense in opening the creation versus evolution forum in its entirety here. What Goodyear needs to realize is that the public isn't expecting him to enter into a deeply philosophical ideological debate. It's simply a matter of supporting the causes that one is assumed to represent, and if Goodyear isn't comfortable in that position, then perhaps he needs to step aside and allow a less neutral leader to take his place.

MIKE KENDRICK
Editor-in-Chief



CONAL PIERCE

LETTERS

Sexual assault "fantasies" aren't a harmless game

I find Aaron Yeo's lax opinion of the game *RapeLay* (re: "Should simulated sexually assault games be prohibited?" 17 March) very concerning. Violence against women is not a game. Rape is not a game. This game and its "simple objective" are terrifying, as is Yeo's idea that video games, including this one, "realize fantasies."

Rape isn't a fantasy, it's misogyny. The idea that the existence of other games like *RapeLay* somehow makes this one okay is preposterous. The thought of raping women for fun in the context of a video game makes me sick to my stomach. We can't stand for this outright misogyny by assuming that "people playing video games have a good enough understanding of the world not to take it seriously." What if there are *RapeLay* players that do take this game seriously? And what about the people who don't take violence against women seriously enough?

I agree with Stead's point that it's practical to ban this game. In doing so, the government sets the example that violence against women real or "fake" will not be tolerated.

RACHAEL ANDERSON
Arts III

Adjustments to Council speaker position minute

So I suppose that, following Lucas Wagner's logic (re: "Taking Students out of Council," 17 March), all of the Students' Union positions should

be held by current undergraduate students? And when the SU needs legal counsel, they should have to hire SU law students? And when the Gateway needs a Business Manager, I assume that they should hire an undergraduate business student?

This is one job, and it's hardly the robbery that you make it out to be. One job which often requires a great deal of specific knowledge and history. This change doesn't exclude anyone.

I don't think that this change even deserves an article. How about an article for all of the students who weren't hired this year because of online voting? At least ten students weren't hired as poll clerks. Is that providing even less opportunity for students to get involved?

Student apathy is a problem. Picking the best qualified speaker for council will help ensure that the meeting is run fairly and smoothly for all who participate. That will do more to fight apathy than one more very part-time position.

MICHAEL JANZ
Open Studies

Letters to the editor should be sent to letters@gateway.ualberta.ca (no attachments).

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Letters to the editor should be no longer than 350 words, and should include the author's name, program, year of study, and student identification number to be considered for publication.

LETTERS FROM THE ARCHIVES

We don't deal with Reds around here, "comrade"

I'd like to make a few comments, with regards to the article by Mr Robert Jones in the 11 December edition of the Gateway.

First, I would like to say that the article brought out some very interesting points, but also contained some very weak arguments. The author seemed more interested in making five words do the work of one than he was in proving or arguing his point effectively.

Mr Jones specifically states, and I quote: "The communist sickle has cut down their common sense, and the Russian hammer has dulled their reason." This, of course, refers to the students who are favouring Russian exchange.

To brand these people "red" or even "bright pink" would only admit that we are resorting to the brand of mass hysteria with which we are so familiar south of the forty-ninth parallel.

Russian exchange, as I see it, can be summed up in this manner: six Russian students come here, six Canadians go there. They both will bring or take their own particular ideas with them. If our students have enough faith in our system, they won't be affected. They might, however, do something about explaining our democratic system to them.

When the Russian students

come here, they will see our way of life, and if they like it, they will pass it on to their close friends when they get back. Either way nothing is lost. Certainly if we send such bullwarks of democracy as Mr Jones.

Now, I know that the first thing that Mr Jones will say when he reads this letter is that I'm "a communist." This isn't true. I'm a socialist, but not (or, I should say, I try not to be) radical. It's difficult, however, when one sees the remains of international news items only after the official censor has wielded his black pencil.

In summing up, I would like to say that if every student uses his intelligence and looks at this problem, there can only be one honest answer: let's have Russian exchange.

LAWSON KERSTER
8 January, 1953

Letters from the Archives is a semi-regular feature where the Gateway runs historical letters that we feel are of particular importance—or are just really hilarious.

Now you can check out all the old-timey fun for yourself! Just go to thegatewayonline.ca and follow the links to the Gateway's digital archives. The archives date all of the way back to our paper's humble inception in 1910, containing every issue from then until now.

While you're there, check out our web-exclusive content, including blogs and our weekly reader poll. Be sure to check out our RSS feeds as well.

Our writers' trademark drinks represent a shaken and stirred variety



OPINION
STAFF

Group
Commentary

Nothing conveys "you" in terms of style and individualism more than a smooth, refined alcoholic beverage that suits your character and tastes.

With the drastically above-average amount of weekday binge-drinking seen this week, we thought it would be an appropriate time to tackle this soul-defining issue.

Mike Kendrick

The sign of a truly unique trademark drink is the extenuating circumstances under which it's been created—typically in a moment where a tasty refreshment is required quickly, but the typical materials may not be readily on hand. Such is the case with the Cuban Missile Crisis.

The Cu-Mi-Cri was born in the spring of 2004, during the NHL's Western Conference finals. The sixth-ranked Calgary Flames had already downed the top-of-the-West Detroit Red Wings, and were swimming with the Sharks in San Jose. The sea of red was awash with crimson-jerseyed fans who hadn't seen the their Cowtown boys get this close to the Cup since 1989. The Sharks were running out of luck in game six, and I had run out of beer to fuel my fandom into the final. I needed a solution.

Behind the bar, my choices were limited: a decade-old bottle of Bailey's, reeking with the congealed

creamy crust that had sealed the cap shut, a half-shot of tequila—not nearly enough to carry me through the third period—and hiding beyond, side by side in a marriage that was meant to be, a lone bottle of Smirnoff standing tall next to an uncracked two-litre of Mountain Dew Code Red.

I mixed the 'simple concoction and took a whiff, the rush of intense cherry-citrus flavour exciting my olfactory glands in a way that they had never experienced. I licked my lips, tilted the glass, and imbibed. I knew that day how Dr Jekyll must have felt upon his chemical transformation into the enviable Mr Hyde. It was pure, distilled nectar of the gods, and just what I needed to carry me through the rest of the playoffs.

Sadly, the Flames lost their hopes of Lord Stanley's drink in game seven against Tampa Bay, and in a poetic tragedy, PepsiCo stopped producing Code Red in Canada shortly thereafter. I've since been able to procure a rare bottle or two as cross-border contraband from contacts travelling to America, but I'm forced to ration it in quantities similar to a well-aged whiskey. Perhaps it's for the best—I have my doubts that such a powerful cocktail can be safely trusted in the responsibility of a single man.

Beth Fehr

When I think about my "trademark drink," my mind automatically envisions a beautiful image of a beverage that I lovingly refer to as Gewürztraminer. While this drink might not be the most practical to tote around in bar, it nevertheless make me feel especially dainty and lady-like when I drink it. After all, what

complements a cream-colored flower print dress and a string of pearls better than a glass of white wine? Plus, due to the fact that I have immense difficulties consuming the proper amount of fruits and vegetables needed to maintain a healthy lifestyle, I believe that when I consume mass amounts of this fruit beverage I'm only working towards the fulfillment of these necessary diet requirements. Wine is fermented grape juice after all.

When I think about how I would most prefer to spend an evening, I don't and can't imagine spending it with a belligerent rye, a gluttonous ale, or a flamboyant martini. Rather, I'd prefer to spend my time being satisfied by a stunningly attractive, delicious, and exotic German wine: Gewürztraminer.

Robert Frigon

Your trademark drink is an important attribute of your being. The drink has defined all manners of men from James Bond to Sir John A MacDonald. There are many important factors to consider when making this choice—first you must be able to drink it. This is important, as a drink for show is just a waste of good liquor. Secondly, you must have some prior knowledge of the drink. It must be hard liquor—beer and wine are too common to be defined as your drink. You must also choose a brand and stick with it, as others are "fine, but not up to the standard" of yours. It must be drinkable on its own—if you have to mask the flavour with pop, then it's no good.

Lastly, you must put some effort and training into knowing your drink. This can be in the form of reading or consuming many a glass of it.

I strongly believe in tradition, and hence I started my "research" young with whiskey. It's by far the best of the spirits. I'm not talking about that corn crap that comes from the States—I'm talking about finely brewed and honed whiskey.

I found my magic elixir or, as the Irish call it, "water of life." More specifically: Jameson. So yes, maybe I just want to be as cool as that guy in PS I Love You, but Jameson is the best Irish whiskey. So ladies, next St Paddy's day, when that creep in the corner asks if you want a little Irish, ask him for a Jameson on the rocks.

Alice Dolphin

If there are two things that I love in the world, they are coconut and pineapple. In fact, I have often consumed so much of the latter that it has caused my tongue to bleed. This is due to the digestive enzymes that lurk in the treacherously sweet flesh of the pineapple, but a little pain can't deter me from pleasure.

Coconut pleasure is of a different variety: creamy, smooth, and smelling of sunscreen, it reminds me of days spent in bikinis browning underneath the sun. And before you say "aha," snap your fingers at the bartender, and demand a Piña Colada for the lady, stop and put that wallet back. The drink I love isn't named. I concoct it myself with pineapple juice, Malibu coconut rum, maraschino cherry juice, a squeeze of fresh orange juice, and lime (because everyone knows that lime amps up the flavour). And since I like my drinks flirty and eye catching, I add a perky umbrella and snazzy coloured straw, and voila—it's the drink that my taste buds adore.

Sure, it's girly sweet—but it's also ruggedly sour. And maybe after too many drinks, my teeth ache from the sugar. But on the upside, my throat isn't searing due to the alcohol. Plus, it's certainly superior to the watery, overpriced messes that bartenders slosh out.

So I say stick with the "Malibu Dolphin," because that's what I christened it just now. I know it's probably been claimed, but it's my surname, so shut up and drink it.

Cody Civiero

When I was a child, I carried my collection of marbles in a snazzy velvet pouch that I acquired from my dad. Even then I knew that there was something sophisticated and attractive about the material and the adorning cursive logo. But what I didn't know was that the signature spelled out the only interest that I'd inherit from my sports-obsessed businessman of a father.

I'm talking about Crown Royal—classy, distinct, Canadian, and a tad pretentious. Just my thing. It's almost refined enough to give me a reason to drink besides release. The perfect counter to a stressful week of exams and work, it goes down smooth, and has a rich flavour that reminds me why I don't need to water down booze in mix anymore.

On a side note, a glass of 80-proof blended whisky will differentiate yourself from the horde of Kokanee-drinking simpletons at any bar on Whyte. Take that advice and do what you want with it. Meanwhile, I'll be enjoying my glass in the comfort of my own home while I churn out the next great Canadian novel. Cheers.

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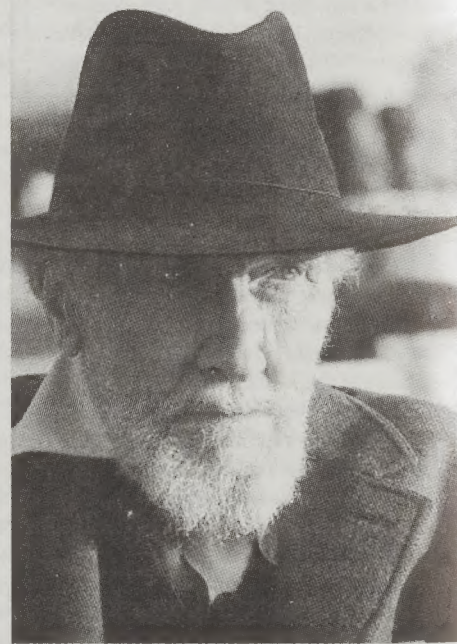
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GATEWAY OPINION

Having a *BLAST* since 1910.



BRIDGING THE GAP BETWEEN SCIENTISTS AND THE MEDIA

Fight the climate of ignorance

CONAL
PIERSE

"Rather than bringing enlightenment, the rise of the information age has allowed us to wallow in self-righteous ignorance. People seek out only those truths that are convenient to them while disregarding evidence to the contrary, allowing for charlatans to abound."

Recently, Lorne Gunter, a columnist for the *Edmonton Journal*, wrote a convincing diatribe, singlehandedly disproving the existence of global warming based on the fact that this month has been cold. After all, how can global warming exist when we have record lows during March? Of course, he also vaguely cites a number of nonspecific studies, further adding fuel to his leftist-conspiracy smashing dreadnought, while conveniently ignoring the mountains of evidence to the contrary. But while it's easy to write him off as an old curmudgeon, Gunter's willful ignorance speaks to a much greater problem.

Today, your average citizen has greater access than ever before to the wealth of human knowledge. But rather than bringing enlightenment, the rise of the information age has allowed us to wallow in self-righteous ignorance. People seek out only those truths that are convenient to them while disregarding opposing arguments, allowing for charlatans to abound. Many people don't bother to fact-check or question much of what's told to them, choosing instead to accept heresy and conjecture as fact. And it's this blatant disregard of the knowledge available that's undermining good science and real progress.

Today, theory has become a dirty word, and is thrown around by opponents of an idea who do their best to make it sound slippery and whimsical. The "theory" of evolution, or that global climate change is only a "theory." But while theory in common usage can mean little more than an individual's musings about why peanut butter is so popular, when it comes to science, the process is rigorous. Only after a great deal of research and supportive evidence have been collected can a hypothesis be deemed a theory—and even then, it remains a theory only if it can withstand scrutiny and attempts to disprove it. To put it in perspective, gravitational forces—something that no member of the general public who wishes to appear intelligent would argue against—are theoretical.


But when an idea is contentious or we're frightened by possibilities that we don't understand, many of us choose instead to disregard the evidence, relying upon the advice of "experts"—quacks who have no authority on the subject other than a soapbox and vitriol. "My grandpappy wasn't no goddamn monkey, and neither am I, so evolution must be false!" But the lack of a tail and knuckle hair on even the most thickheaded of cretins does not make a compelling argument for an intelligent designer—in fact, the human body

itself serves as an argument against any kind of clever mechanic. The fact that the scrotum solves the problem that sperm can't develop properly at core body temperature speaks more to a lazy designer than anything else—then again, six days is an awfully short timespan in which to do such complex work.

Fact shouldn't be confused with belief, and shouldn't be ignored simply because they're conflicting or inconvenient. By indulging our biases in favour of expanding our horizons, we serve only to further entrench ourselves in our positions and decay the lines of dialogue. In the past, wild and outrageous opinions were something to keep to yourself, lest you be discovered by your peers and considered a lunatic. But if you want to be crazy in this day and age, you can easily find hundreds of other people who are more than willing to go diving off logical cliffs.

Today, more than ever, we have the ability to expose those who would sell us snake oil as frauds. As such, we need to take it upon ourselves to verify the information we're given, rather than accepting it as true. Because just as a man who's struck on the head with an acorn can't claim that the sky is falling, one who needs an extra layer in March doesn't make for a climatology expert.

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Cash won't solve homeless problem

ROBERT
FRIGON

would put a stigma upon those that live there, but would make it easier to teach classes, ensure rules are followed, and keep costs down. There must be a better balance between care and cost. These places may not be the most comfortable of abodes, but these people don't require all the comforts—that's a want, not a need, and they must earn those perks rather than be given them freely.

This cash infusion is the wrong way to go about supporting the homeless. There are already many entrenched groups and societies that are helping them now.

And hopefully, the government, like myself, is expecting an increase in homelessness if they advertise Alberta as a "homeless-free province." If the government brings this bill into being, it will tell others that if they come here, they'll get their home subsidized for them. As flocks of people come to this area to take from the public pot, it'll increase the strain of homelessness on the taxpayers' backs. There needs to be some effort from the homeless as well—every member of society must put their best effort in. If they decline to do so, then they don't deserve our help. Their best effort doesn't only include work, but trying to be a productive member of society in any capacity that they can help in. This can be achieved through not abusing

drugs and alcohol, and using their life to help others who are in similar situations. The effort to solve this issue can't be all one-sided.

To end homelessness is an impossible goal. There will always be those who will remain destitute. Spending tax reserves to push this new plan is a waste, and those that aren't seeking help or are mentally handicapped will drive up cost of this program, which is wrong. Those who feel that society should just give and don't actively look for help shouldn't be allowed to pull down by society by trying to ride the coattails of others.

This cash infusion is the wrong way to go about supporting the homeless. There are many already entrenched groups and societies that are helping them now. These people understand what the needs are and what has worked and failed. The government going in with big wads of cash won't serve anyone, as they will only alienate those they are trying to help and waste precious cash in forcing their ways upon them. Instead of starting new programs and re-blazing the trail that's already developed, the government should back foundations that are well connected in the society and support them in reducing homelessness.

Helping others is never wrong and should be supported, but a plan needs to be well thought out and not just a large dollar amount. Something of this magnitude comes with a need to bring in experts, have proper planning, and you must help those that are wanting to be part of society. Lets get back to the drawing board and come up with a plan that won't break backs for those that don't want to break their own.

SPORTS EDITOR

The Gateway is accepting applications for the position of Sports Editor** for the 2009/2010 publishing year.

The term runs from 1 May 2009 to 30 April 2010. The full-time paid portion of the job runs from mid-August to the end of April. Four issues of the Gateway will be produced over the summer months. The Sports Editor will be expected to train on at least three of the four summer issues (unless granted leave by the hiring committee) for an honorarium of \$100/issue. In its full-time capacity, the salary for the position is \$1281.88* per month.

Applicants should submit a covering letter, resumé and portfolio to **Gateway Business Manager (Asia Szkudlarek, 780-492-6669, biz@gateway.ualberta.ca)** by noon on Friday, 3 April 2009. Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted for interviews.



THE GATEWAY

* Pay will be adjusted for inflation over the summer and may increase.
** Complete job description (subject to change) is available at www.gateway.ualberta.ca/gsj/s

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Make a vid that will blow us away

Terrorist productions need to move a step up in quality to be taken seriously

MIKE
CHAFE

Live from an undisclosed cave in a remote Middle Eastern mountain range—it's Saturday night! Yes, it certainly seems as if terrorist organizations are releasing one shitty low-budget film after another as means of uttering threats to the world.

Fun fact: the video is the third most common form of terrorist threat communication right behind the terror telegram and the terror-i-or pigeon. Given that the video is such an important means of threat conveyance, I find it hard to come to terms with the fact that many of these terror groups simply don't know how to produce a good movie.

It's not that I don't think that the threats are legitimate; they very well could be—well maybe, but not really. My grudge lies within the quality of these videos. It truly is a great tragedy that so many of these films lack the emotion, drama, and other film fundamentals needed to skyrocket their status from B-list bargains to cinematic masterpieces. Let this be a lesson for any terrorist organizations in the campus area.

The first issue with these so-called "threat" videos is actually no fault of the terrorist groups producing it. Rather, I place the blame squarely

on the Western media outlets that rebroadcast this filth with such horrible translation. Whether it's a male or female, the voice is always bland and monotone. That fanatic is on camera pouring his heart and soul into this performance, and the Western media turns it into a travesty!

It truly is a great tragedy that so many of these films lack the emotion, drama, and other film fundamentals needed to skyrocket their status from B-list bargains to cinematic masterpieces.

Would you put crappy translation over a great film such as *Casablanca*? Of course not! So why must coercion videos be ridiculed with such a bland and boring English voiceover? Although, if this is the angle you're aiming for, I know a few professors that are perfect for the job.

Instead, why not enlist one of the greatest voices that Hollywood has to offer to help emulate terror threats? It would be intensely cool to hear about why westerners are all a bunch of fire breathing goats in the voice of Morgan Freeman. That's the kind of credibility that just may win you an Oscar with your jihad.

Setting is key to the plot of any film. It's all about location. That's why I say that the whole cave backdrop is getting old. It's simply too obvious. If radicals really want to scare people, change is the greatest weapon at their disposal—well besides a nuke, I guess.

Why not try something fresh and unexpected? I suggest pulling a Martha Stewart and setting your next ultimatum in a calm home setting. Your strange tactics and tacky purple apron will bemuse enemies. Also, this new setting will provide ample space for arts and crafts. Nothing strikes terror in the heart of an enemy like making a hand grenade from a pinecone, some cotton balls, and a hot glue gun.

The most important part of any film is the plot. Unfortunately, many terror videos are latent with a similar storyline: angry dude with AK-47 talks fiercely to camera, cue footage of terrorist training camp, roll credits. This format is lacking one very important thing: drama! Couldn't groups still get their point across with a soap opera-like format? I, for one, would gladly curl up with a bowl of popcorn to see the theatrics unfold when Osama admits that he's Mahmoud's real father!

When I see footage of grown men running around a playground, I don't see a weapon of terror—I see nothing but a common school-yard bully. And we all know that the only way to deal with bullies is to challenge them to a fight by the bike-racks after school. Until the quality improves, I simply can't take terrorist threat videos seriously. But whatever, I'll still watch them: it's better than *Twilight*, at least.

It may be cold out, but not-quite-nude will forever be the hot clothing option

SHAWN
FUHRER

"The reason behind this mysterious phenomenon is the fact that we all imagine something more awesome than real naked, and are all sadly disappointed when we actually get to the day that we've all waited for since we were old enough not to run away from cooties."

Some people have epiphanies sitting on the john, some in the bath, and some while staring at a chalkboard or your closest dry-erase substitute. Mine was while Facebooking and watching the Brier. While playing a mindless Flash game, I glanced at those annoying ads promising dates, beer, and better academics, and it came to me: "Eureka! Non-naked is hotter than naked!"

Every young boy that puts his first toe into the wading pool of manhood is fascinated by the prospect of a naked woman. It's socially taboo—a mirage that he may never see aside from fleeting peeks behind the brown paper cover on those naughty magazines at the local Shell station. Excited to see that first glimpse of more than just side-boob, boys don't see that the grass is greener where they sit: untainted by the naked.

I'm just going to throw this out there and look for an "Amen!" but women look hotter in lingerie or possibly a nurse or Catholic schoolgirl costume. The reason behind this mysterious phenomenon is the fact that we all imagine something more awesome than real naked, and are all sadly disappointed when we actually get to the day that we've all waited for since we were old enough not to run away

from cooties.

Getting to the basis of this world-changing, life-altering, epiphany—it can be paralleled to dangling a carrot in front of a horse, or a putting a box of jelly donuts at the top of a gentle slope at a fat camp. We all crave the chocolate or a glimpse of more Anne Hathaway than we get to see in *Bride Wars*. But when that day comes, guys can all agree that if the prospect of sex wasn't on the horizon, we would rather just eat a sandwich. Personally, I prefer a nice turkey or roast beef on white, but that's neither here nor there.

But this isn't to say, "bundle up in your woollies for that hot night of passion that will inevitably leave one party pissed about never getting the backrub that was promised." Frankly, a big puffy winter coat and long johns isn't one of those fantasies that anyone should ever have and, if you do, please seek a therapist. Instead, go one step (or possibly up to ten steps) less than a parka and mukluks, and put on a tease. Not naked—I mean hot not naked—by no means applies to the full body condom that is a set of sweats or a comfy one-pieced pyjama. Myself, I prefer a nice flannel set of PJ pants or a housecoat while just lounging about the house making that sandwich or a nice steak dinner

on my big night home alone, but we can't permit these to appear on our summer beaches.

For not only would flannel be extremely warm and uncomfortable on a hot day at the beach and completely unsuited to the rigors of a dip in the big blue wet, but it will cause a massive drop in local tourism and towel sales, thus deepening the economic crisis we face, and limiting our ability to buy high-priced and highly addictive morning coffees.

The only conclusion that can clearly be drawn from this is that not-naked isn't only pleasing eye candy, but the driving force behind procreation and the continuation of the human race. And it's not only the topic of the majority of males' daily musings, but it's the only thing standing between us as a civilized society and complete economic anarchy.

Non-naked provides not only the drive for males to muster up the courage to talk to a beautiful girl in a class, but it also keeps the entire capitalist economy rolling forward because, collectively, it pushes us to reach for the carrot dangling on the end of the string. Overall, not-naked is infinity plus one times better than naked—unless, of course, you're not ending up with only a sandwich.

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Laugh while *Sesame Street* decays into a slum

CODY
CIVIERO

alive during the show's introduction, because the Reds have been laughing their asses off while we've turned our kids into a bunch of pussies.

The cash-strapped producers should take their situation as an indication that they need to go in a new direction—that *Sesame Street* needs a "reboot."

Sesame Street is essentially naïve liberal propaganda. Homosexuals live together in peace, unjudged by society. People of all races, colours, and spiritual beliefs get along lovingly, and there is no economic disparity to be found.

Bert and Ernie would leave their apartment in the morning to be surrounded by enraged members of the Westborough Baptist Church hatefully decrying their "indecent" lifestyle. Oscar the Grouch would slowly succumb to alcoholism, alone and unloved—another statistic for the city to ignore when the homeless problem is forced back on their agenda. Big Bird would die

of avian flu, and Snuffleupagus would be hunted for precious ivory, only to go to waste when the poachers realize his lack of tusks.

Before you scoff at the concept, you should be advised that it's not as radical as you may think. The Brazilians have shown some grasp of this social necessity, as their version of the program features an HIV-positive character. This is a step in the unsanitary, politically-incorrect direction that we should, nay, must follow. Feature a character with cancer, one with depression, another with radiation poisoning and, finally, a victim of flesh-eating disease.

I mean, doesn't anyone remember *All Dogs Go To Heaven*? That preteen offering served up a healthy blend of requisite binge drinking, mob hits, chain-smoking, gambling, and demons fit for a developing mind. It didn't bullshit kids like every other film catered to the age group. And that's exactly the kind of children's entertainment we need more of.

This content has the real educational value that the *Sesame* crew have falsely boasted since inception. In an age of climate change, recession, poverty, crime, genocide, threat of nuclear war, and democracy's assurance that stupidity dictates policy, we can't afford to bring up kids who expect everything handed to them. Instead, we must craft a generation of appropriately cynical, suspicious paranoiacs who are relatively able to face the horrific, meaningless, and short conditions of our existence. Let the indoctrination begin.

THE BURLAP SACK

As a long-time patron of Whyte Avenue's many drinking establishments, I haven't come to expect much from the strip. Sticky floors, rude bouncers, and even ruder patrons are the usual accoutrement of a night on Whyte. But as one of Edmonton's established strips, I at least expect the stores there to keep up the sheen of respectability.

Hence my disappointment with Southpark Motors, owners of the monumental sign that towers over the street below. During the day, the car dealership's sloppy handiwork is imperceptible, but after hours, when the neon lights up, their shoddy maintenance and burnt-out bulbs stand out like night from day—a 100-foot-tall version of the broken headlight on your lazy neighbors' Toyota.

I realize that it might be hard to find a big enough ladder to get around to maintaining such a large piece of signage, but for too long it has been a monument of sloth, for all to see. So until a giant neon "O" comes on the market, I've got a plus sized burlap sack to cover up that flashing eyesore for you.

SEAN STEELS

The Burlap Sack is a semi-regular feature where a person or group who needs to be put in a sack and beaten is ridiculed in print. No sack beatings are actually administered

Spring / Summer Registration is now open!

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www.thegatewayonline.ca

THIS IS ONLY A TEST

If this were the actual Gateway Online, you'd see live, up-to-the-minute news updates (as well as posts from our crack team of bloggers) being sent straight to you via the power of the Internet.

THE GATEWAY

FROM PORTLAND, OREGON ALL THE WAY to Greensboro, North Carolina, today marks the beginning of the most-watched college tournament in the world—the NCAA Men’s Division I basketball tournament.

Whether you enjoy watching it for the fresh-faced future NBAers, or because you have \$200 riding on Gonzaga making it past the Sweet 16 (don’t bank on it), just about anyone can get caught up in the Madness.

With a foolproof bracket—determined by a crack team of *Gateway Sports staff*—and a breakdown of each region, we’ve got you covered.



THE REGIONS

MIDWEST

After winning the Big East tourney, the Louisville Cardinals come in as both the Midwest region’s top-seed and the tournament’s best-overall team, making them a strong candidate for the play-down in the Motor City. The Cards could also, however, have their hands full in the second round facing either a solid eighth-ranked Ohio State Buckeyes team that knocked off the region’s second-seeded Michigan State Spartans in the Big Ten conference tournament.

The region also boasts the defending national champion Kansas Jay Hawks, who clock in this year as the number-three seed. Looking to score an upset in the first round on their

home court in Dayton, Ohio will be the eleventh-seeded Dayton Flyers, as they open the tournament against number-six West Virginia. Mountain West Conference champions Utah also check in at the fifth spot in the region having finished ranked 25th in the final Associated Press Top-25 poll of the season—the team’s first time in the rankings since the 2004/05 season.

—Evan Daum

WEST

The West appears to be a two-horse race with the University of Connecticut Huskies (the AP’s number-three team in the nation) and the Memphis Tigers (last year’s final-

ists) set to vie for a spot in the Final Four. However, some troubling aspects of the Huskies’ game—namely the loss of depth following the injury to Jermaine Dyson and the lack of complementary outside threat to supplement AJ Price from beyond the arc—have raised eyebrows as to UConn’s viability as a title contender. Meanwhile, Memphis has racked up a tidy twelve-game win streak and appear to be peaking at the most opportune moment.

Marquette, a squad written off by many as too small, has managed a respectable 12–6 record in the murderous Big East and pose an intriguing dilemma in a potential second round matchup with third-seeded Missouri—a team capable of serious

THE BRACKET

64 teams go in, but only one comes out on top. Before the big show, *Gateway Sports staff* Evan Daum, Nick Frost, Paul Owen, Matt Pretty, and Pete Yee compiled their picks to reach majority consensus. It’s not rocket science, but it’ll do.

Post your Final Four predictions online at thegatewayonline.ca

EXPERTS’ PICKS

SCOTT EDWARDS

HEAD COACH, PANDAS BASKETBALL

Final Four: Wake Forest, Memphis, Pittsburgh, North Carolina

National Champion: North Carolina I always fill out my bracket with Duke winning the whole thing and work back from there, so it goes against everything I believe in and stand for as a human being to choose Carolina to win this tournament. But as long as their Point Guard Ty Lawson is healthy, they have the most talent, the most experience and will win it. Could be the first sign of the apocalypse, but I’ll stand by this pick.

KYLE LANDRY

ISS SPORTINO INOWROCLAW (POLAND-PLK) FWD, N ARIZONA UNIVERSITY LUMBERJACKS ALUMNUS

Final Four: Louisville, Connecticut, North Carolina, Pittsburgh

National Champion: Pittsburgh Pittsburgh will come away victorious because of their top defence and ability to beat top teams. They’re a very balanced team with Sam Young as top scorer, DeJaun Blair at the five, and Levance Fields at point guard.

CHRIS O’LEARY

2005/06 GATEWAY SPORTS EDITOR, SLAMONLINE.COM BLOGGER (“SOLE SEARCHING”)

Final Four: Michigan State, Memphis, North Carolina, Pittsburgh

National Champion: Pittsburgh In the same way your mom continues to cook for you after you leave home, I always clear a spot in my Final Four picks for North Carolina, who’ve

had my heart since I was in junior high. Beyond the Tar Heels, my picks are about the little guys. I took second-seeds Memphis and Michigan State over UConn and Louisville, respectively, as neither top-seed won me over this year. While Pitt is tops in their bracket, they’re built like a CIS team. Six-foot-seven DeJuan Blair is their best big man and their tallest players are both six-foot-eight. They may have to jump off of teammates backs (ala Nate Robinson in this year’s slam dunk contest) to get to the rim, but they’re my pick to cut the nets down on 6 April in Detroit.

PAUL SIR

EXEC DIRECTOR, BASKETBALL ALBERTA; HEAD COACH, EDMONTON ENERGY (IBL)

Final Four: Louisville, Memphis, North Carolina, Pittsburgh

National Champion: Pittsburgh The Panthers win because of their complete team strengths. They’re physical, with great defenders and rebounders. They can also transition well, and can shoot and score in the paint.

ETHAN SIR

2009 ACAC SILVER MEDALLIST, CONCORDIA THUNDER

Final Four: Louisville, Memphis, North Carolina, Pittsburgh

National Champion: Louisville The Championship will feature North Carolina and Louisville, with Louis coming out on top because the Tar Heels haven’t had too many close games with Louis, and dropped a huge game to Florida in the semis.

- (1) LOUISVILLE
- (16) MOREHEAD ST
- (8) OHIO ST
- (9) SIENA
- (5) UTAH
- (12) ARIZONA
- (4) WAKE FOREST
- (13) CLEVELAND ST
- (6) WEST VIRGINIA
- (11) DAYTON
- (3) KANSAS
- (14) NORTH DAKOTA
- (7) BOSTON COLLEGE
- (10) USC
- (2) MICHIGAN S
- (15) ROBERT MORRIS
- (1) CONNECTICUT
- (16) CHATTANOOGA
- (8) BYU
- (9) TEXAS A&M
- (5) PURDUE
- (12) NORTHERN IOWA
- (4) WASHINGTON
- (13) MISSISSIPPI ST
- (6) MARQUETTE
- (11) UTAH ST
- (3) MISSOURI
- (14) CORNELL
- (7) CALIFORNIA
- (10) MARYLAND
- (2) MEMPHIS
- (15) CAL ST N-RIDGE

offensive fireworks if they're able to lure opponents into running the floor. Number-four Washington has also assembled an impressive regular season resumé, but the Huskies' football team was so god-awful this year that this writer is inclined to wholly overlook the school's athletic program. The most intriguing squad in the West region is the University of Tennessee-Chattanooga, not for any basketball prowess, but for the exhilarating possibility that alum Terrell Owens may show up to a game, do sit-ups, ridicule the Tennessee point guard, shed tears of poignant grief as the Mocs get eliminated, and be traded to LSU's fan base. Compelling stuff.
—John Keohane

EAST
The East features arguably one of the most favoured teams to win: the Pittsburgh Panthers. Pitt has evolved into one of the most powerful teams in the NCAA thanks to their physical play, great defenders, and rebounders as well as their ability to get out in transition. They should also have no problems getting the big plays in the paint, especially with rebounding beast otherwise known as DeJuan Blair holding down the fort. The 6'7", 265lb centre currently sports 12.7 rebounds per game—good enough for third in the country. Although Pitt is a heavy favourite, Duke, Villanova, and Florida State should also pose big challenges.

Villanova, meanwhile, has the huge advantage of playing home court in Philadelphia, and UCLA could be a surprise contender due to their extensive playoff resumé. If you're looking for potential upsets in this quarter of your bracket, Portland State demonstrated their ability to topple big teams, taking a game against Gonzaga earlier in the season. VCU is also a strong contender in this category and could pose some problems for UCLA in the round of 64.
—Patricia Ariss

SOUTH
North Carolina, the number-one seed in the South, are carrying a lot of baggage into this year's tournament. Star

senior Tyler Hansborough—who forwent an opportunity to fulfill his destiny as a ploddingly mediocre NBA player to bask in the glowing adulation of college culture for his final year of eligibility—is hellbent on securing his "legacy" by delivering a title to the faithful at Chapel Hill. Oklahoma, the second-ranked squad in the region has amassed a conference record of 13–3 in the Big 12, and boasts the nation's most offensively-dynamic freshman in Willie Warren. Gonzaga managed to accumulate a perfect 14–0 conference record and has the hot hand, winning eleven of twelve contests. However, a pedestrian .500 record against AP Top-25 teams and a lame nickname (what the hell is a "Zag"?) indicate that

this team is doomed for failure, probably in the Sweet 16. Syracuse, another survivor of the hostile Big Twelve, has two very impressive victories—a seven-point win in Memphis and a triumph against UConn—to go along with several puzzling losses to seemingly inferior teams. An enigmatic squad, the Orange could wreak some havoc against seemingly superior foes. The hot team though? Radford. They're a potential dark horse this year, but an 11–1 record in the past twelve contests and a sterling 0–2 record against Top-25 teams seems to hint at the possibility of greater things. You heard it here first.
—John Keohane



UBC's Pierse breaks world record in 200m breaststroke

NICK FROST

Swimmers of the world take note: Annamay Pierse means business.

After storming onto the international scene with two silver medals at the 2007 Pan-American Games and leaving an impression at the Beijing Olympics this past summer, the longtime Edmonton resident can now lay claim to a world record in the women's short-course 200m breaststroke. Formerly with the University of Alberta from 2001-03, now with the UBC Thunderbirds, Pierse set the mark with a time of 2:17.50, placing 0:00.25 ahead of Australian Leisel Jones' old record at the Canadian National Spring Championships in Toronto this past weekend.

According to the 25-year-old, achieving world-record status and etching out a place amongst the world's best female swimmers is a scenario that she's imagined for a very long time.

"It's unbelievable. It's something you dream of when you're younger and are always striving for, but when you finally achieve it, it's a feeling that's really special," Pierse says.

If that weren't enough, this particular race took on even greater significance for the fifth-year CIS swimmer as her 20-year-old sister Hanna also qualified for the final and participated just a few lanes over. While the younger sibling finished just off the podium in fourth-place (2:25.74), it was overshadowed by celebrations and her jubilation over her big sister's achievement.

"She was ecstatic—there's actually a really great picture of the two of us hugging after the race, which I have as my profile picture on Facebook," Pierse says. "It's cool to race her because she's who I get to train with everyday, day in and day out, and I get to compete against her in practice, but then I also swim alongside her in races, too."



KEEGAN BURSAR, THE UBYSSEY

MAKING A BIG SPLASH Canadian swimmer Annamay Pierse celebrates her world-record victory at the Canadian National Spring Championships.

Pierse has been setting benchmarks among the national ranks for nearly two years and was quick to credit those around her as being the motivators that allowed her to become, and help her remain, one of the best up-and-coming swimmers in the world. Specifically, working alongside national training centre coach Joseph Nagy—who's been guiding her since October 2006—has pushed her to the limit in her swimming specialty, the breaststroke.

"My coach Joseph is ... crazy," Pierse laughs. "He's Hungarian, so he has a very Eastern European-style in his coaching philosophy—it's like, you know who Bela Karolyi is, the gymnastics coach for the States? He's like the Bela Karolyi

of swimming. He's tough, and very strict, and sees everything; he's always coming up with new and difficult ways for us to get faster. But there are also a lot of other people around me that help me get better—support staff, massage therapists, biomechanics people."

On top of all the individuals pushing her to get better, Pierse's own determination to train hard for international events in the past year propelled her to become accustomed to a whole new level of competitiveness. Having to up her game to both compete and succeed in the 2008 Summer Olympics was a good starting point for her motivation, but even moreso, she wanted to set herself up for a lengthy and

fulfilling swimming career abroad.

"I don't know if it necessarily was training for the Olympics that made me a better swimmer, but wanting to go to the Olympics and do really well was motivator and just, overall, internationally wanting to get better," Pierse explains.

With this recent achievement now under her swim cap, Pierse will look to continue building upon the foundation she has established for herself with future appearances at the 2010 Commonwealth Games in New Delhi and, eventually, the 2012 Summer Olympics in London—and there's no doubt in her mind: by that time, she wants to be, in her words, "the best in the world."

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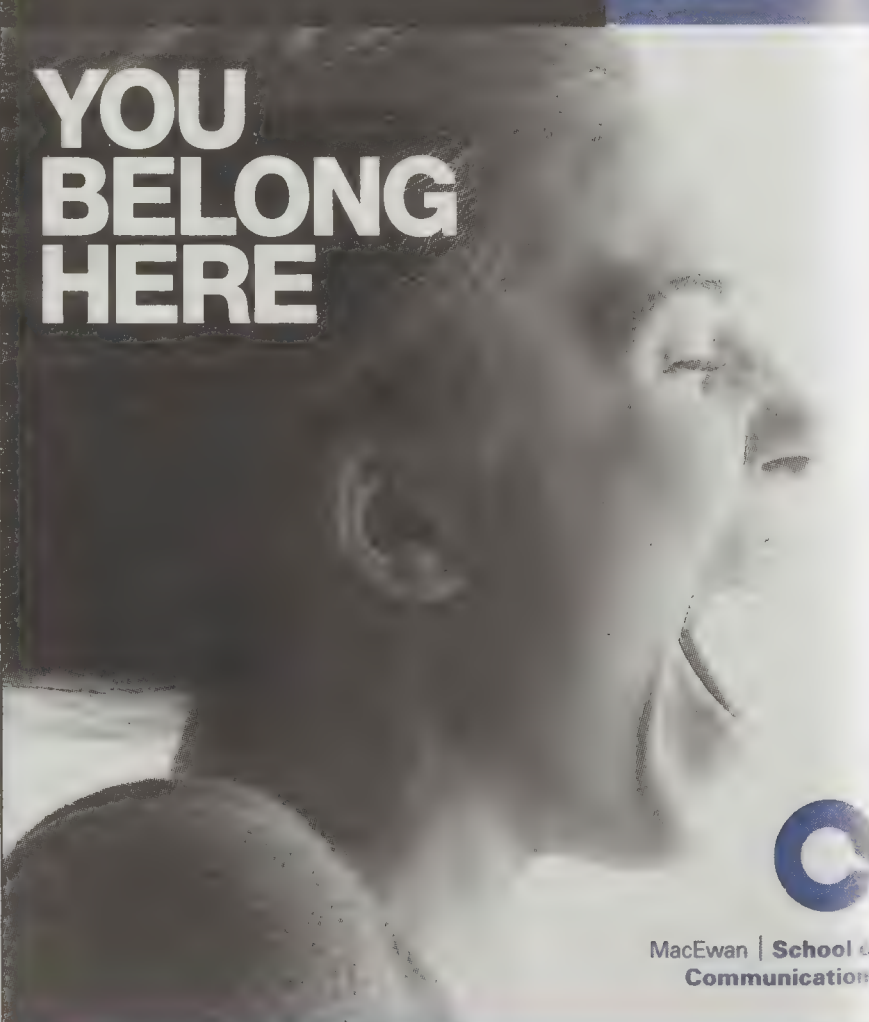

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PETE YEE

ALL EYES ON CLARE DRAKE The Canada West title will be on the line when the Bears battle the Huskies on home ice.

Nationals berth at stake as Ice Bears play Huskies

EVAN DAUM
Illustration by Peter Yee

In what's almost become an annual event in men's hockey, the Golden Bears and the Saskatchewan Huskies will square off in the Canada West Final. For the twelfth time in 13 seasons, these fierce conference rivals will butt heads for the Canada West crown in this weekend's best-of-three series at the Drake.

The Green and Gold come into the series fresh off their three-game Canada West semi-final win over the Regina Cougars. Last weekend proved to be an ample test of playoff readiness as Alberta had to fight to keep the series alive after the Queen City crew took it to the Bears Friday night in the series opener, handing the defending national champions a 5-2 loss. They bounced back with victories in the final two games of the series, however, to guarantee the team's spot in the Canada West Final for the 32nd time in program history.

"Any time you face that adversity and are able to come through it with two wins afterwards really shows the character of our guys," Bears head coach Eric Thurston explained. "The end-result worked out. We kept getting stronger from the third period Friday on, and were just able to wear

them out."

It should come as no surprise that the Bears and Huskies meet yet again for not only the conference title, but also the conference's lone berth to the National Championships. The two teams have been jostling for position atop the standings all season long and will, as always, provide some playoff fireworks.

"Any time you face that adversity and are able to come through it with two wins afterwards really shows the character of our guys."

ERIC THURSTON
GOLDEN BEARS HOCKEY HEAD COACH

If Alberta wants to punch their ticket to the national tournament in Thunder Bay, Ontario, they'll have to shut down the Huskies' number-one line, headed up by first-year forward and offensive top dog Steven DaSilva. DaSilva captured not only the Dave "Sweeney" Schriener Trophy as the conference's leading scorer, but also

became the first player in league history to win both league MVP and Freshman of the Year honours this past week.

"He came right in and Saskatchewan got off to an unbelievable start. He was just on fire and hasn't really taken any steps backwards. He's their number-one powerplay guy and he's meshed well at centre with his linemates," Thurston commented. "He's a big time player. I think he's got the chance to go to the next level."

The Bears will counter with a formidable award-winner of their own in defenceman Kyle Fecho, who laid claim to the Mervyn "Red" Dutton Trophy as the league's top defenceman and will be looked to as a key component to shutting down the DaSilva line.

"Fecho has been a key guy. He plays the powerplay and I try to have him out against the other team's top line. He's going to be a guy that's going to be really relied on. When he plays a lot of minutes, he just seems to settle right in," Thurston said.

The puck drops at Clare Drake Arena on Friday and Saturday at 7:30pm, and Sunday night in the third and deciding game if necessary at 7:00pm. All games can also be heard on the University of Alberta Athletics' website at www.bears.ualberta.ca.

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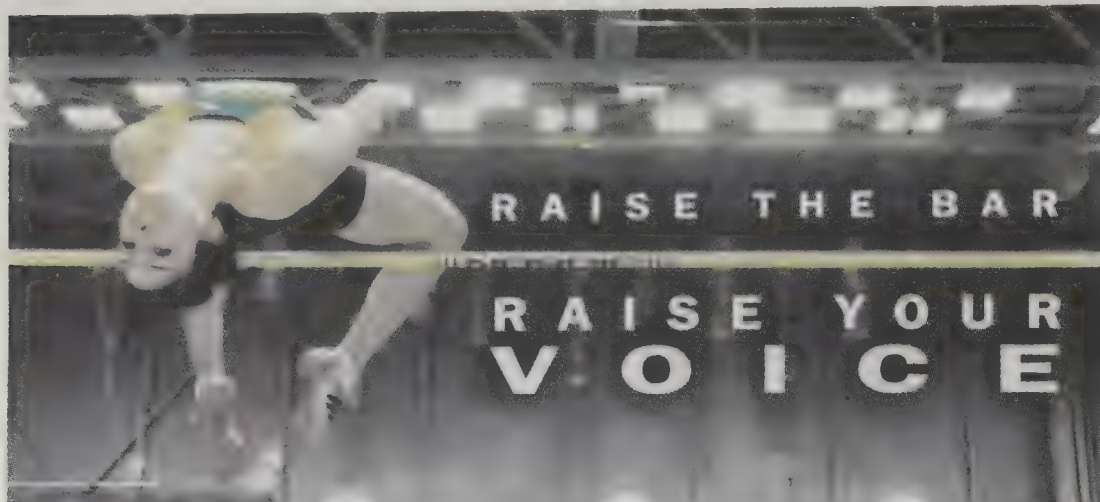
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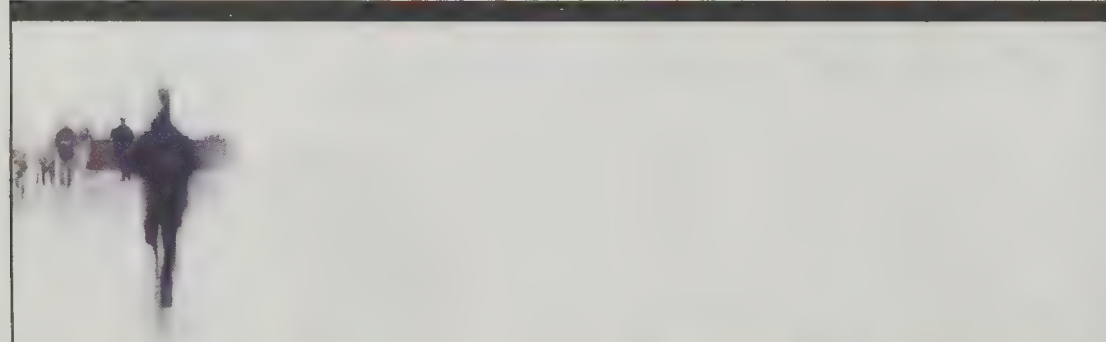
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NBA's playoff format hurts marquee series



MATT
PRETTY

Sports
Commentary

Being a hockey fan long before I got into basketball, I always thought the Stanley Cup playoffs were the textbook on multiple-round, series-based playoff formats: take eight teams from each of the two conferences, with division winners making up the first three seeds on each side. Play the first round with the highest seed competing against the lowest seed, followed by the second versus the seventh, etc. Then, continue with that same logic all the way through to the finals. It was simple. It made sense to me.

So in March 2005 during the NHL lockout, I logged on to NBA.com thinking, "I'd better check out the playoffs to see what was happening." And it floored me.

As much as NBA commissioner David Stern has done right during his tenure, I think the playoffs format is still an issue that needs to be examined in North America's major professional basketball ranks.

First of all, they bracket their playoffs instead of re-seeding after each round. The winner of the one-vs-eight series plays the winner of the four-vs-five series, and two-vs-seven's winner against three-vs-six's, no matter what. So when major first-round upsets occur, a lesser team gets the benefit of playing the Cinderella team, rendering a high-seed essentially meaningless in terms of second- and third-round opponents. The best (or worst) example of this came in 2007, when the eighth-ranked Golden State Warriors upset number-one Dallas Mavericks in the first round, meaning that they went on to play the fourth-seed Utah Jazz—who beat them 4-1—while number-two Phoenix and third-ranked San Antonio played a classic six-game series, one which most afterwards called the real conference finals.

A good playoff format in any league flat-out shouldn't have the conference's marquee matchup—involving the two highest remaining seeds, not to mention as bitter rivals as the Suns and the Spurs—occur in the second round.

Meanwhile, division winners are

given a guaranteed top-four seed, which make some sense because they should be credited somehow. On the flipside, though, they award home-court advantage in each series to the team with the better record, regardless of seed—which I also think they have that right to do, too. But when they put both of those together, we get a rare instance of two rights making a wrong.

If you give the division winner a high seed but take away home-court advantage, what's the point of giving them the high seed? There's essentially no benefit, especially in a best-of-seven system. They should either do now and give the division winner home-court in at least the first round (the benefit of winning the first round, or throw the division winner's method out and give home-court to the high seeds. Personally, I'd seed by record only, which makes sense when you re-seed for the second round.

Lastly, I think the NBA should implement some sort of CFL-type crossover rule, where teams can make the playoffs in the opposite conference if their record is better than its own playoff-bound teams. You know the system is flawed when, last year, a team who played .585 (Golden State who went 48-34, finishing 11th in the conference) finishes ninth and misses the playoffs in favour of a team that played .451 (Atlanta, who went 37-45, finishing eighth, 29 games behind conference leader Boston). Not only would Golden State have made the playoffs in the East, they would've been the fourth seed and had home-court in the first round. In hockey terms, that's a 78-point team making the playoffs over a 100-point team.

I agree that conferences and divisions are important, and that the parity pendulum is eventually going to swing the other way—but, honestly, figure something out. Definitely good to have one conference should not have to miss out while below-average teams are awarded with a dishonest playoff spot. The rule wouldn't have to kick in every year, but it would be there for circumstances like that one.

So, I hope you're listening, Mr. Stern, even though it's too late for this year. Your fans may like your system now, but I think they'll like my system better.

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SOCIAL INTERCOURSE

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Friday, 20 March 8pm and Saturday, 21 March 2pm and 8pm
Winspear Centre (4 Sir Winston Churchill Square)
\$24.50 at the Winspear box office

It was bound to happen. As soon as Reese united chocolate and peanut butter, people inevitably started thinking about other things that were meant to be together, like circus performers and orchestras. Some of the most talented acrobats, aerobists, dancers, jugglers, and contortionists in the world will fly, twist, bend, and bust moves to the sounds of the Edmonton Symphony Orchestra. Two great things, together at last.

The Greatest Silence

Directed by Lisa F Jackson
Screenplay by Lisa F Jackson
Friday, 20 March at 5pm
Lisgar Theatre (Maple Leaf Room)
Free

After travelling to the Democratic Republic of Congo, a nation that has been in constant conflict since the 1990s, filmmaker Lisa F Jackson discovers that there's more going on than meets the eye. This documentary relates the stories of some of the Congo's most frequent, yet overlooked victims: women and young girls. Through interviews with these women and children, the soldiers that casually molest them, and the doctors that deliver the resultant babies and treat the resultant diseases, Jackson attempts to shed light on the plight of these women while disclosing details of her personal history with sexual assault.

TFC6: Domination

Friday, 20 March Doors 7pm, Fight 8pm
Scotiabank Conference Centre (9797 Jasper Ave)
\$21.00 at ticketmaster.ca

Everybody will be kung fu fighting! Well, the TFC6 Fighting Championships (also sometimes called "The Fight Club") are really more about mixed martial arts, but there'll probably be some kicks as fast as lightning. The match-ups include Jonotoni vs Nick Penner, Claude Patrick vs Dave Mazany, and Gina Mazany vs Jackie Mikalsky. Yes, you read that last one right. In addition to the two male match-ups, two ladies will also be duking it out in a head-to-head, no-holds-barred cage fight, so be sure to buy some popcorn. Jackie Mikalsky is also from Edmonton, so go all out to support the hometown girl as she hopefully scissor-kicks like a butterfly and uppercuts like a bee to secure herself a local victory.

Swollen Members

With Guests
Monday, 23 March at 8pm
The Pawn Shop (10549-82 Ave)
\$20 at ticketmaster.ca

It's been more than a few years since these Canadian hip-hop stars have slipped off the radar and radios, but this trio of Mad Child, Prevail, and their close producer/contributor friend Rob the Viking have been busy. After recording an unsuccessful "experimental" record titled *Heavy*, the group has stated that they intend on returning to their original rapping style for their upcoming album *Beautiful Death Machine* sometime this spring. As well, expect to see solo projects from both Mad Child and Prevail, who are recording under the pseudonym CannonBallCrush. If you like flat brimmed baseball hats, fur collared coats, copious sampling, and bling, then this is the concert for you.

SARAH STEAD
The A&E Padawans



Tearing the flesh off the English language

A zombie virus that infects through words is Bruce McDonald's way of creating a societal critique

filmreview

Pontypool

Directed by Bruce McDonald
Starring Stephen McHattie, Lisa Houle, and Georgina Reilly
Princess Theatre (10337-82 Ave)
Opens Friday, 20 March

SIMON YACKULIC

Canadian film director Bruce McDonald feels that Western society reflexively respond to societal threats by reflecting concerns of the day within film—such as the Cold War fear of a nuclear holocaust or public paranoia a few decades ago surrounding the AIDS outbreak. As he mentioned at a downtown Edmonton bar during his cross-Canada tour, his most recent film may be a more abstract representation of the theatrical norm, as it represents a fear of the English language.

"All the vampire movies of the '80s were [due to] the fear of AIDS, the fear of blood," McDonald explains, taking a sip of his drink while looking genuinely contemplative. "The beast movies of the '50s—*The Blob*, *The Thing*, all that stuff—was fear of nuclear radiation and war [...]. More than ever in the last 100 years, Western society is totally trapped into words. They're typing into their computers, texting each other, sending emails, and talking on cell phones. It's not just sending a letter once in a while or secretaries typing. Now it's like everybody's fucking doing that—this word thing."

McDonald says he was struck by the realization that our entire interconnected modern society relies on the constant use of the English language.

"What would happen if words were dangerous; what would happen if our language system fell apart?"

Pontypool, McDonald's brand new theatrical

release and winner of Best Dramatic Feature at the Edmonton International Film Festival last fall, represents the latest movie that tries to redefine the "zombie" horror genre. The movie stands out in its category, significantly—the violence is largely described rather than seen, and the "infection" seems to be within the English language itself. The entire concept, bizarre as it may seem, is itself loosely based on a book called *Pontypool Changes Everything* by Tony Burgess.

"When I first read it, I thought it was the craziest thing I've ever heard," McDonald exclaims. "It seemed to suggest so many different opportunities: which words are dangerous and are there already words that we use that are dangerous?"

"Western society is totally trapped into words. They're typing into their computers, texting each other, sending emails, and talking on cell phones. It's not just sending a letter once in a while or secretaries typing. Now it's like everybody's fucking doing that—this word thing."

BRUCE McDONALD
DIRECTOR, PONTYPOOL

Filmmakers push the boundaries of this horror subset frequently. Being quite passionate about historical trends in filmmaking, McDonald excitedly points out that redefining the zombie genre the way *Pontypool* does isn't necessarily a radical undertaking.

"The definition of a zombie has really expanded over the last little while. The original definition would be that zombies were [people] in Haiti under voodoo. I don't know if they were the 'living dead,' but they were people called back

from the dead or living people under a trance. Romero's kind of zombies are the popularized kind of zombies—with the foot dragging and brain eating. And people would call the people in *28 Days Later* zombies because they're not quite dead, but not really living normally either. People kind of use it as a term to refer to people who aren't quite all there, or to office workers who are just locked into this horrific, data processing job. So the term zombie has really broadened out to include a lot of automaton-type behaviour."

Engaged and enthusiastically rambling on about zombie-film history, McDonald glances up and explains how *Pontypool* fits into the zombie dynamic.

"So it could be that, or the zombie could be some person who was fucked up off their meds, or somebody at the point of East Hastings and Main in Vancouver. It's autobiographical [for writer Tony Burgess] in the sense that experiences in his life led him to feel like he was living as a real-life zombie, and then he just expanded the idea. You read the book and there's just such a personal adjustment in it."

As a director, McDonald wanted to convey that personality to his movie audiences. He took liberty with the plot of Burgess's novel, using the same ideas but presenting the events to the audience through a different set of eyes—the eyes of a radio personality. To get the effect of having viewers visualize their own horror scenes as if they were reading a novel, McDonald explains how he had to go for a novel approach.

"Most zombie movies or modern-day horror movies are aiming for a huge body count and it's exciting. You go see that Rob Zombie movie, *House of a Thousand Corpses*, and it's more about quantity versus being about knowing that 'hey, maybe one will do.' So we thought, let's let the audience make the special effects in their mind—let them listen like the characters in the movie are listening. You'll find that your imagination can create something much more terrifying and much more in-depth and a more nasty mob scene than you can experience with a guy in a rubber suit or something."



Halo Wars

Published by Microsoft
Developed by Ensemble Studios/
Bungie Software
Now Available on Xbox 360

IAN PHILLIPCHUK
Arts & Entertainment Staff

If you're one of those PC gaming snobs who think that real-time strategy (RTS) games will forever be the domain of computers, *Halo Wars* may just change your mind. Its excellent control scheme, long snubbed by PC gaming, doesn't outdo the traditional mouse and keyboard setup, but it's as refined a system as can exist on a console. Too bad the rest of the game doesn't live up to that standard.

Halo Wars is much closer to the

original Halo concept that Bungie put forward. Once Bungie was bought by Microsoft, it quickly shifted from an RTS to a first person shooter, and the rest is history. Ensemble Studios has a good pedigree with this genre of games, having developed the iconic *Age of Empires* series, and that experience shows.

The first thing that will strike you about *Halo Wars* is how pretty it is. Units explode with satisfying gusto, spraying the landscape with debris, and the first time you see the Spartans in one of the excellently rendered cutscenes, you won't forget it. Get several armies together, firing both conventional and plasma rounds, and you'll appreciate the visual polish Ensemble has put into the graphics.

The visuals really shine in the lush cutscenes, and this fantastic imagery carries the story. Granted, *Halo Wars* won't win any awards for originality; however, the plot does its job and gets the game from point to point

effectively. The player follows several characters, such as Sergeant Forge, Captain James Cutter, and Professor Ellen Anders, as they investigate the Covenant invasion of the colony of Harvest, and delves deeper into the reasons for that conflict.

Each mission can essentially be overcome by turtling inside your base or with a blind charge at the enemy if you're lacking one.

While the narrative drives the game forward, oftentimes the gameplay stalls progression. For any semi-experienced neophyte of the genre, the single-player campaign shouldn't present much difficulty. Each mission can essentially be overcome by

turtling inside your base or with a blind charge at the enemy if you're lacking one. While there's enough variety in the missions to keep them theoretically interesting, there's no challenge in the majority of the game.

However, the game mechanics aren't all bad, and an intuitive base design does lend complexity to the experience, even if it's still handled haphazardly. Buildings are constructed on a limited number of slots that are tied to each base, so careful management of your space is key to accomplishing anything. This forces the user to potentially make tactical decisions. In reality, though, it's just window-dressing over the fact that you can simply throw men and tanks into the enemy's meat grinder until victory is accomplished.

Ensemble has ensured that the *Halo* universe is represented strongly in their extension of the series, but that's both a detriment and a benefit. For a side with well-defined members like

the Covenant, it's fun to see the Hunters, Brutes, and a whole lot of other races bear down on a United Nations Space Command firebase. For all the humans, however, the well of fun runs dry after Warthogs, Scorpions, Marines, and Spartans, because the units are unfamiliar and the Balance issues also creep in. The single, laser-wielding Spartan's job of annihilating a small enemy force single-handedly.

Despite the pitfalls the game wanders into, it's not an awful experience—merely a letdown. Though much of the game is lackluster, the story provides enough motivation to finish the single-player campaign, if just for the sake of the movies. If you're a fan of the previous games in the series, *Halo 2* is worth a rental. While not as rewarding enough to warrant a chase, it still lets you sit down over the weekend and forget the dread of finals.

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A whirlwind bromance of passion

Jason Segel and Paul Rudd discuss their affinity for man dating and cock jokes

film review

I Love You Man

Directed by John Hamburg
Starring Paul Rudd, Jason Segel, and Rashida Jones
Opens Friday, 20 March

JON KMECH
Arts & Entertainment Editor

The dick joke is a timeless art, allowing the most juvenile of youths to convey their innermost thoughts and desires in a socially acceptable form, and slightly older males like Paul Rudd and Jason Segel to bond on the set of their latest film *I Love You Man*.

"We made several boner jokes before we started this one, so we already spoke the same language a little bit," says Segel. "When I say boner jokes and language, it's an actual language called, err... 'bonerist.' We both speak bonerist."

"Yeah, it's a lot like sign language unfortunately, except without the hands," adds Rudd.

"It's very hard to just spell out one letter," continues Segel.

Both men have built their careers on the verbal puppetry of the penis, but their latest work together is slightly more sentimental. In *I Love You Man*, Rudd plays Peter Klaven, a man who's

ready to settle down with the love of his life before realizing that he has no one in his life that could be his best man. After a series of man-dates intended to find a friend worthy of standing next to him in the chapel, Klaven meets Sydney Fife (Segel) and instantly knows that he's the man for him. However, his new friendship comes at odds with his relationship with his girlfriend.

The term "bromance" has been around since the 1990s, but both Segel and Rudd feel that only recently is the concept being accepted by mainstream audiences.

"I think it's a long time coming that you've seen a good male platonic comedy," Segel explains. "And that's what we're going for and we got as close to the homoerotic line as possible without crossing it. Which I think we both found comedically satisfying."

"It just seems to be the word of the moment—bromantic," Rudd continues. "There have really been films throughout the decade that have fallen into that category, but we've never called bromantic."

Being bromantics at heart, the pair listed off several of their favourite man love films over the years, including *Twins*, *Junior*, *Dumb and Dumber*, and more sarcastically, *Schindler's List* and *Midnight Cowboy*. But feelings between two men don't just happen—it takes work

and commitment.

"We had a day when Paul and I had our first 'man date,'" notes Segel. "And they took us to [this] fish taco restaurant and the director told us, 'look, the goal is just to look like you guys are slowly starting to like each other, don't really worry about a script.' Then they just gave us four hours of fish tacos and beer and we just had to talk and be funny and enjoy each others' company. It was very, very easy and very, very fun."

Fun comes in many forms in any film for Segel and Rudd. In the last few years, Judd Apatow films have revolutionized male big-screen nudity, and the pair have both bared their bottoms before. Although there won't be any derrieres in *I Love You Man*, they explain that showing your ass on celluloid allows for both easier dating and additional opportunities for novel dick puns.

"It actually makes things more comfortable because the girls know what they are going to get, so there's not any mystery or awkward moment where it's like, 'yeah, this is what I'm working with,'" says Segel. "If they want to go out on a date, they've already checked out the goods—and on the big screen, too."

"Unless there is a chance that maybe they got it and downloaded it on iTunes and are watching it on their iPod," add Rudd. "Which would give you an iDick."

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Culture 102

Exhibit #7: Stephen Baldwin

This second-banana Baldwin and star of such comedies as *Bio-Dome* recently debated Republican Congressman Ron Paul on CNN about the merits of marijuana legalization, with Baldwin supporting prohibition.



Gateway A&E thinks that people should trust in the reputation and wisdom of Barney Rubble.

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BEN DEXTRAZE

Filmmakers focus their lenses to frame the world around us, reflecting on the subtle beauty and chaos of life. And when students take the helm behind the camera, the magic of filmmaking exposes perspectives that are not only fresh, but distinct to our generation.

"Movies are society's biggest form of entertainment now. But for me, it's the fact that these are regular people making movies for other regular people," says festival director Kassia Haynes.

As Haynes explains, the festival allows students to submit an array of different films in the hopes that they might be seen by their peers.

"Students are so creative. We know how people want to go to the Garneau or the Princess theatres because they don't play Hollywood films. This is like

the least Hollywood you can get, so it's real. There are no restrictions on the types of genre of films because we feel that people have different interests, and we don't want to stifle them," Haynes continues.

"This year, all the films have a very dark tone; so that was something we didn't expect, because last year we didn't have that. But we like that—we like to see what people are making now, we like to see what's inspiring young people."

The Alberta Student Film Festival, now in its third year, is getting bigger and better with each annual event, but none of this would be possible without the hard work of the filmmakers and volunteers who spend countless hours bringing their independent films to life.

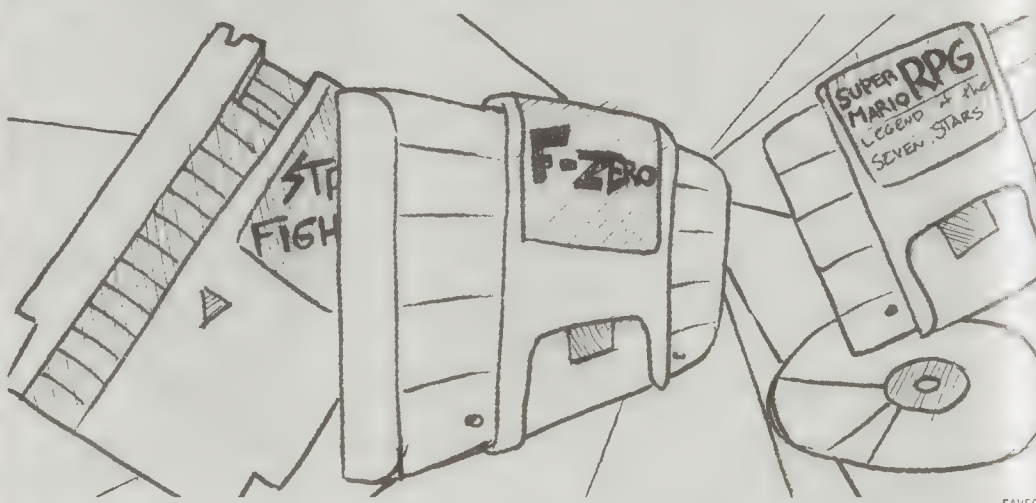
The festival is an offshoot of the Society for Creative Filmmakers, a group of students who formed at the U of A four years ago with the hopes of supplying a network for student filmmakers who wanted to make films, but didn't have the resources to bring their ideas to life. In turn, the Society helps produce a large number of the films that are submitted to the festival.

"How it generally works is, someone will get an idea for a film they want to make and will get in touch with our

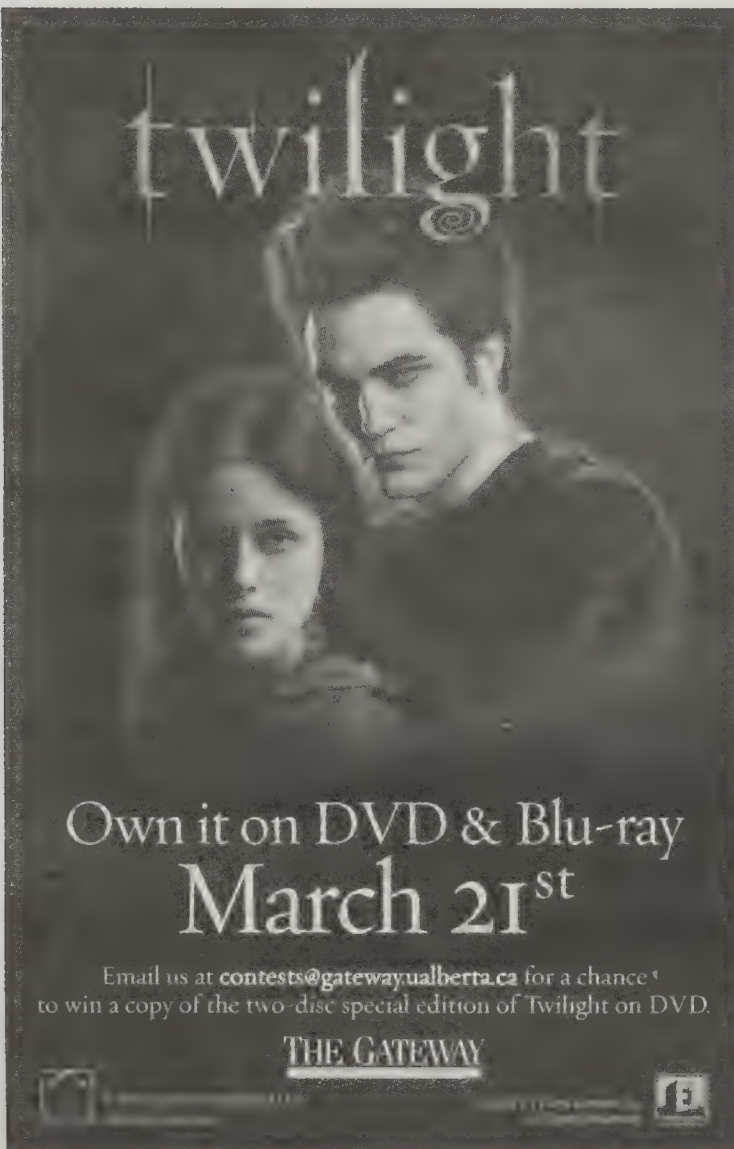
executive branch to start the ball rolling," Haynes explains. "First, they might contact our video production with a great idea, but don't know how to shoot it and need actors to fill in. From there, the Society finds the people they need to bring it to life. We're all working together to make

The festival, as well as exists to encourage and makers to create their The festival screens selected some of the screened film home the festivals' However, the student festival mately hopes to enrich and de the insights of its film also allowing an arena network with each other and quently build a stronger Edmonton.

"The mandate of the Film is to support local, home makers; not just their screen, also their education," Hay "We offer a workshop every film that is submitted back. So, if you don't get screen know why you weren't know what we were seeing know what we were looking then help you for next year



Used games not the cause of industry woes



IAN
PHILIPCHUK

That high-pitched sound gamers have been hearing echoing through their ears lately is the sound of the gaming world crying out in pain. This once-mighty video gaming business has been laid low by the most foul of assailants: little eight-year-old snot-faced Timmy wanting to buy a used copy of *Pokemon Blue* with the \$5 he's got clutched in his hand. That's right—the target of the industry's ire is used games.

At first glance, the position seems insane, but take a longer look and you'll realize that it's *batshit* insane. Take Two Interactive, distributor of *Grand Theft Auto 4*, claims that used game sales have a negative impact on the number of new titles purchased. I'm assuming that they told the media this while taking a break from diving headfirst into a cash pile of the \$256.8 million they raked in during the first quarter of 2009 alone. It's easy to feel sympathy for them though; if used game sales are eliminated, the pile would be slightly bigger.

Even the Entertainment Software Association issued a press release spouting figures that show a 22.9 per cent increase over last years profit's

for the industry, up to \$22 billion in 2008. That's more than twice what the film industry makes. This has all of the warning signs of an industry in turmoil, barely keeping afloat in the demanding sector that focuses on making kids sit on couches for days upon end. If they lose any more money, they might not be able to fend off their greatest challenger: books.

Do you know the last used game I bought? *Armored Core: For Answer*; a game so terrible I have to get an old priest and a young priest to exorcize my PS3 of the awful stank after I stop playing.

Even David Jaffe, a developer I have a grudging respect for due to his straight talking, can't resist whining and complaining like a little brat. Positively leaping onto his high horse, Jaffe claims that the war over used games is an issue that's "literally [...] none of the consumer's business." I don't know if you've noticed, Jaffe, but you're working in an industry that's entirely supported by consumers.

And who's really getting hurt by used games, honestly? Do you know the last used game I bought? *Armored*

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to Play fat sacks of cash.

The majority of used games are sold are games that the publisher would never see profit from in the first place. Is Hironobu Sakaguchi, creator of *Final Fantasy*, really going to be \$5 short the next time he goes to the store to buy milk and forced to curse and my ilk for buying *Final Fantasy XXXL* used? Call me a crazed fan, but frankly, the industry is going to have to do much more to convince me before I stop buying used. Now if you'll excuse me, I just finished a marathon session of *Ecko's Getting Up: Contents of the Coffin*. Pressure and I need to call Merrin and Karras.

Shadow Theatre explores mental illness, love in *Winter*

theatrepreview

Year of Winter

Directed by John Hudson

Written by Scott Sharplin

Starring Tracey Penner and Garrett Ross

19-29 March, Tuesday-Saturday at 7:30 pm,

Saturday-Sunday at 2pm

Varscona Theatre (10329-83 Ave)

\$17-20 for students at TIX-On-The-Square

(tixonthesquare.com)

DAVID JOHNSTON

Arts & Entertainment Staff

Scott Sharplin likes artists. Not that this should be surprising in and of itself—he is one, after all—but he also finds them to be excellent subject matter for his plays. To that end, the four plays of his that have been mounted in Edmonton this season—*Inferno Sonata* and *Truth Factory* for the Indie's season, *Black Hearts in the Green Room* for the Walterdale Playhouse, and now the world premiere of his mystery drama *A Year of Winter* for Shadow Theatre—have all been about artists and creative types, to one degree or another.

"I've had a very lucky run this year," Sharplin

admits. "And I guess I keep coming back to the sorts of people that I know very well. I've always been interested in the fine line between genius and madness, I suppose—the way that it's perceived in our society. And we tend to think the most talented artists are also the most unstable."

That seems to be the case in *Winter*, which tells the story of Alice and Terry, two painters sharing an apartment. He's mentally ill and can't leave the studio, she's his caretaker, and an unconventional love story unfolds. The mystery aspect enters the picture when Terry disappears and Alice is forced to go searching for him.

Despite a simple premise (two actors, one set), Shadow's Artistic Director John Hudson noted earlier this year that he considered *Winter* the most challenging show in Shadow's 2009 playbill. And Sharplin sees where he's coming from due to the play's unusual structure and dialogue methods.

"This has been a real opportunity for me to explore very unconventional language; the characters know each other so well and they rely on each other so tightly that they've almost invented their own language," notes Sharplin. "And it's accessible; it's easy for an audience to tap into it, once they attune their ears, but it's allowed me to experiment with what I think are some very lyrical ways of writing dialogue."

The play also differs from the norm with its use

of masks—the actors play a variety of supporting characters by means of masks that the audience gets to watch Alice and Terry build through the first act. On top of an acting and directing challenge, the masks nicely tie in with Sharplin's overall vision for the show.

"It's a nice metaphor for the way mentally ill people see the world differently. I think it's really interesting that we sort of feel in our society that we need these artists, but we also feel very separate from them. They see the world in a very unconventional way, and that's both beautiful and also really scary to a lot of people."

In the spirit of the production, Shadow Theatre will be running an exhibition with a partnered artist collective called Out of the Shadows that specializes in promoting work by artists with mental health issues. The exhibition will be Varscona lobby through the run of *A Year of Winter*.

With all the art surrounding the show, Sharplin is firmly in his element. This production marks not only the world premiere of *Winter*, but also the first script he'll have written and collaborated on with Shadow Theatre.

"It's worked out really well for me and the company," he says. "There's a lot of uncertainties when you do a show like this, but I think that's part of the joy of theatre—to bring all these talented artists together and see what they come up with."



STEFFI ROSSKOPF

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Gertrude Yorkes (aka Arsenic) and her Deinonychus Old Lace are an impressive duo. A real badass chubby-girl-and-dinosaur fighting team.

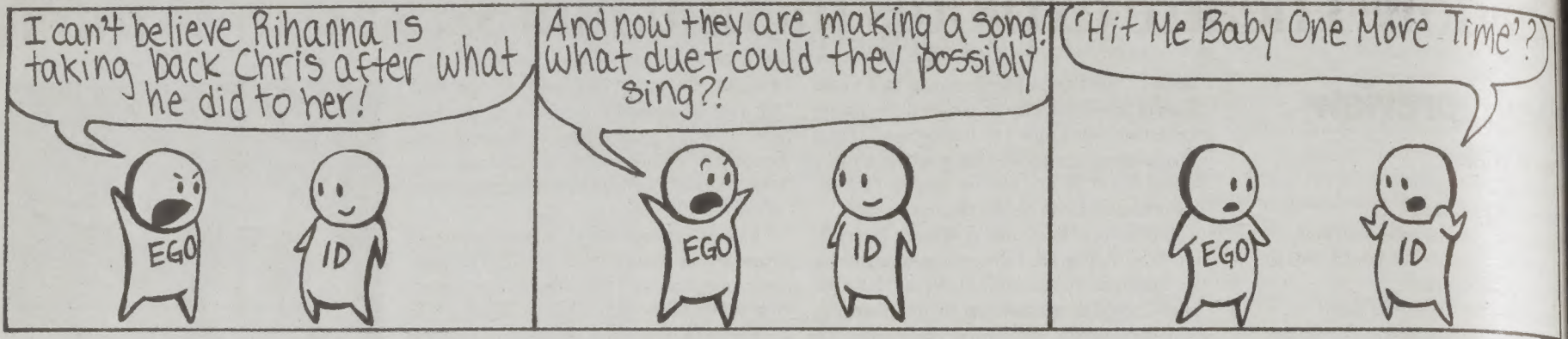
Unfortunately the Gateway's comics and illustration section does not include any telepathic dinosaurs. However, we do convene for a nifty meeting every Wednesday at 5:30 in SUB 3-04 where we might just talk about dinosaurs.



THE GATEWAY

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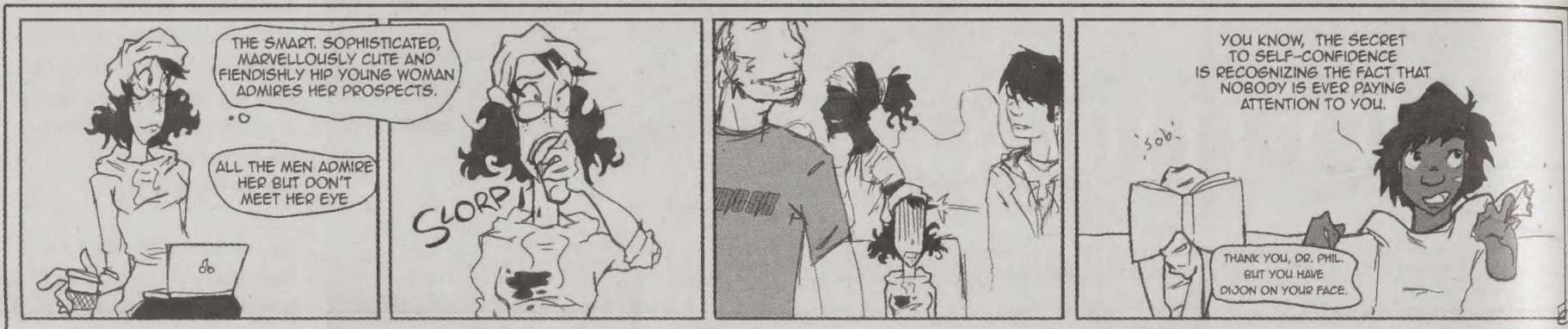
ID & EGO by Lauren Alston



GEERS by Josh Ulliack and Jordan Larson



PEOPLE WATCHING by Faye Campbell



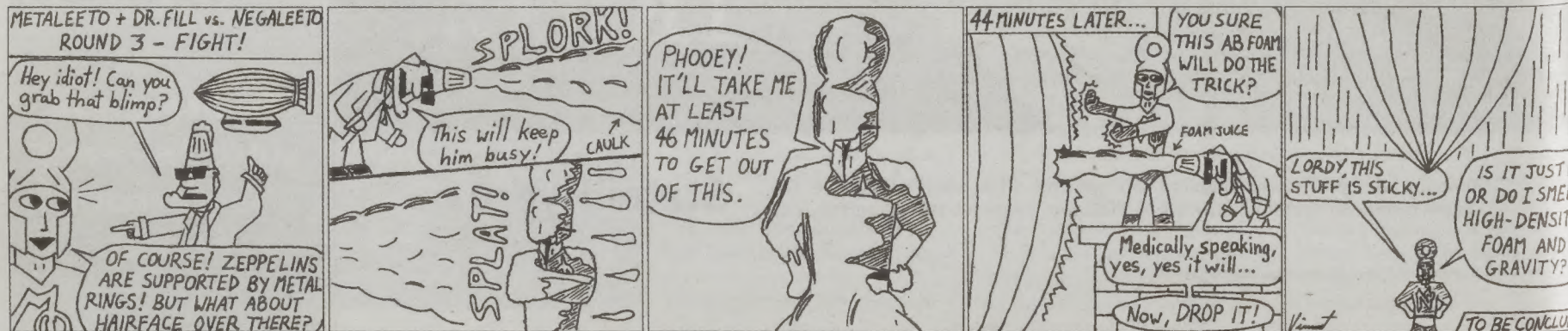
THE RESTLESS WICKED by Marie Gojmerac



SEXY GEEK by Ross Lockwood



METALEETO by Ross Vincent



astronowatch
by Kati Kovacs

The space shuttle Discovery had a successful launch last Sunday, with an unexpected passenger. A small, free-tailed bat was spotted clinging to the external fuel tank minutes before the launch. The bat is presumed to have died. Although the critter didn't make it, the shuttle itself had a trouble-free launch and recently docked with the International Space Station (ISS). The shuttle

crew's mission is to deliver a new set of solar arrays to the station. They will be installed Thursday and unfurled on Sunday. Discovery has also delivered a different kind of cargo to the ISS: Koichi Wakata of the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency will be the first JAXA station crew member. We had a close call yesterday with a newly discovered asteroid. The 20m-wide space rock passed by the Earth only 85 000km away. That sounds far, but it's a very close shave in

astronomical terms. Come out to the observatory at 9pm tonight, the new start time for the rest of the term! AstronoWatch is a weekly feature that covers the goings-on in the night skies, the galaxy, and sometimes even Kati's personal life. Keep up with Astronowatch online at thegatewayonline.ca/astronowatch or check out the FABservatory's site at www.phys.ualberta.ca/observatory



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PERSONALS

Happy, healthy, Edmonton couple wanting to adopt a child: mikken@ymail.com

AND FINALLY

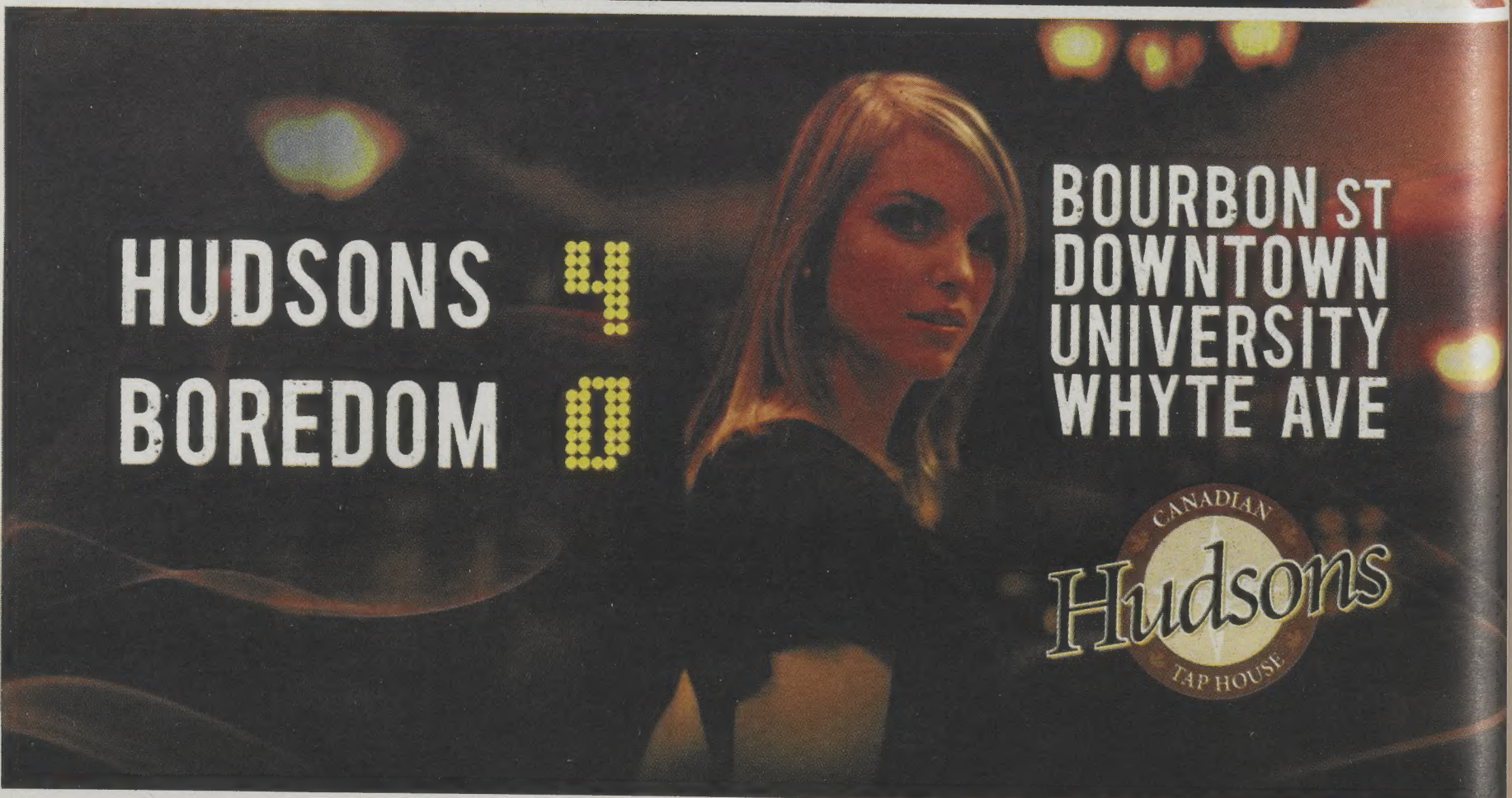
So I go to my bus stop and there's this guy there. He looks me in the eye kind of dopishly, and holds out a joint. "Want? It's my birthday joint. Tonight I'm gonna go to a titty bar, get me a lap dance. I'm 18 now!" I feel obligated to respond. He's a teenager smoking "the reefer." He probably has a gang, or a gun, or a gang of guns. "Congrats, man," I reply. "Be careful at the strip joint. They'll drain your wallet fast." He smirks. "My mom, man. This morning she gave me a birthday card, and I was like 'gay. I'm too old for a card,' but there was three grand in there!" And so he continues, and the bus comes. He sits next to this pretty girl, and tells her the same story. And sadly, she seemed pretty impressed by that.



THE RANCH

I WANNA RANCH ALL NIGHT

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